

PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER



LWVOR President's Letter May 2020

Dear Oregon League members,

I hope all of you are managing well as our COVID safety timelines extend further. Thank you for your dedication to our shared mission! As President--and on behalf of the Board--we are striving to improve our communication, which was a clear message from last year's League convention in Ashland.

This is a combined member First of the Month letter and League leaders' message, incorporating our May Board meeting discussions (hence the delay). It's been hectic to write and assemble the quarterly VOTER, prepare for Council 2020, begin collecting signatures for the Redistricting Initiative, increase digital outreach for Voter Service and support national action.

This message includes info from this weekend's Council Workbook. We will sorely miss meeting in person at the Oregon coast with our hosts, the Lincoln County League! We are taking an Oregon rain check; Council is already booked for 2022 at the same Newport hotel. We are discussing another joint meeting with LWVWA in 2021, maybe a joint convention. We're considering topics, distance or in-person meetings, or--by jovial request--meeting in Hawaii! :)

Please keep reading for further news. And VOTE by TUESDAY!

- Initiative Petitions
- Council 2020
- Remote Meeting bylaws
- "Cyber" study consensus ZOOM Meetings
- Action
- Voter Service
- Work with LWVUS, including LWVUS Convention 2020 news

Initiative Petitions

REDISTRICTING CALL TO

ACTION! NOW COLLECTING

SIGNATURES! LWVUS and other states are counting on Oregon's Independent Citizen's Redistricting Commission Initiative, IP 57. It is imperative that every League member go into emergency mode until July 2 to ensure our successful initiative signature campaign!



Reach out and share beyond our Leagues!

We are still social distancing, so get an "E-Petition", review the measure, print the electronic petition sheet, sign and mail it in, all safely from home, from [People Not Politicians](#). You can read the press release "[Independent redistricting commission supporters launch Oregon signature gathering campaign.](#)" More information is available on our [LWVOR Redistricting in Oregon](#) page.

From Norman Turrill, President, League of Women Voters of Oregon Advocacy Fund:

"It is now imperative that every League member and every coalition organization go into emergency mode until July 2 to ensure our successful initiative signature campaign!"

During the last year the League instigated and lead a broad coalition of organizations and individuals from the whole political spectrum known as [People Not Politicians](#) (PNP). The coalition's purpose was/is to draft, file and get an Oregon constitutional amendment initiative on the 2020 General Election ballot to reform how redistricting is performed in this state.

Former LWVOR President Norman Turrill was selected as the PNP campaign Chair and one of two Chief Petitioners. The PNP coalition currently includes besides the LWV of Oregon (LWVOR), Common Cause Oregon, the Oregon Farm Bureau Federation, the Independent Party of Oregon (IPO), the American Association of University Women of Oregon (OR AAUW), NAACP Eugene/Springfield Branch, Oregon State Public Interest Research Group (OSPIRG), the Oregon Progressive Party, the Taxpayer Association of Oregon, Grow Oregon, Portland Forward, and Stand Up America.

The coalition actually drafted and filed three initiatives, IP 57, IP 58 and IP 59. All versions propose a 12-member independent citizens' redistricting commission, strict redistricting criteria, and appeal to the Oregon Supreme Court. The three are identical except that IP 57 combines congressional and legislative redistricting, whereas IP 58 and IP 59 separate those two processes. This was done to avoid a possible two subject rule challenge. Both the Secretary of State and Attorney General approved excellent ballot titles without ruling that the initiative contained two subjects. The Oregon Supreme Court also agreed with the ballot titles without any change. We are therefore proceeding with just IP 57 at this time.

In late 2018 and early 2019, the LWVOR together with local Leagues held some 22 public forums about our ideas for reform of the redistricting process. These forums were quite successful with a total of some 500 persons attending and gaining much publicity. In 2019 the LWVUS Education Fund gave a \$10,000 grant to the LWVOR for continuing these educational programs. The LWVUS also gave a \$5000 grant to the LWV of Oregon Advocacy Fund (LWVORAF), which was spent on promoting PNP programs. In 2019, the LWVORAF conducted a fundraising campaign for PNP and raised some \$13,000.

The PNP campaign is currently circulating IP 57 for signatures with a deadline of July 2. We

are now in uncharted territory in attempting to conduct an initiative signature gathering campaign during a pandemic. PNP has a plan to combine direct mailing of petitions with promotion of online e-petition downloading and printing. We also think that pandemic restrictions will be eased in mid-May or early June when we can then get out on the streets in force for traditional petitioning. **These combined tactics should give us a good shot at success."**

Money in Politics. An April 23 Oregon Supreme Court ruling surprisingly went further in support of campaign finance reform than expected. [Honest Elections](#), for passage of SJR 18, likely to become ballot measure #107.

At this point, you may be thinking about Ballot Measure Researchers! We expect fewer this summer, but will still welcome you! Please write to Deanie Anderson, [deanieha51\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:deanieha51[at]gmail.com), especially if you have a favorite you want to research!

Council 2020

Our delegates will meet by ZOOM on Saturday to adopt the budget and elect some new board members. We're looking forward to seeing you! Our information-packed [Council Workbook is online](#). We will have a Virtual "Bring Your Own Lunch Luncheon" after the business meeting. Let's catch up! Here are some thought-provoking topics:



- Government authority during a health crisis. Laws differ on whose authority leads, state or federal.
 - Safe elections and COVID 19: voter registration, ballot processing with older elections' workers, in-person voting.
 - Technology and Privacy during a pandemic. Contact tracing can be done through our phones. How much can it help with limited testing?
 - What if the 2020 election is disputed?
 - The terrible condition of voting on tribal lands, especially Vote by Mail.
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Remote Meeting Bylaws

We have updated our website series: [Community Building During the Coronavirus](#), adding [ZOOM for Beginners](#). A summary for those wondering about remote meetings and bylaws can be found in our [Council Workbook](#). Please reach out to us with any questions at lwvor@lwvor.org.

Cyber Study Consensus Meetings

The study committee is piloting the consensus process in ZOOM meetings ([all materials here](#)) to provide support for local Leagues interested in running consensus meetings remotely. These have been fun, interesting, and a real gift to LWVOR as tech support volunteers have come forward to assist with Consensus and the Council 2020 meeting. Please contact Mary Sinclair, study chair, [cksinclair\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:cksinclair[at]gmail.com), for help with e-consensus

arrangements. Thank you!

Action

Action has filed on 14 separate issues since the session ended. For Natural Resources, we sent or signed onto letters addressing the Oregon Climate Action, Air Quality Protection, and Forestry Plans, Dam Safety, and the Northwest Energy Coalition. Our COVID-19 related action included:

1. Signing the Oregon DOJ [COVID Hate Crime Call to Action](#),
2. Petitioning the Elections Division for an emergency administrative e-petition ruling. They will not require full measure text printing and mailing with e-petitions signature sheets. This provision might have required printing and including dozens of pages with the signature sheets.
3. Contacting our congressional delegation about CARES Act Tax inequities and Heroes Act Election funding.
4. Early Oregon prisoner release and support for runaway and homeless youth.
5. Managing transparency in posting Oregon's COVID Response Committee documents.

Thanks to the Legislature for prioritizing technical assistance under challenging circumstances.

Voter Service: 2020 Primary and Beyond

We are SO Proud of our local Leagues for stepping up! Our in-person candidate and issue events have gone to digital formats. Hats off to our Local Leagues for sponsoring virtual events and increased online interviews, and for our [Video Voters Guide collection, with 124 videos!!](#) Take a LOOK!



Everyone counts on US because League members are trusted sources of voting information! And we have great tools! All of these are on our [LWVOR Vote Oregon](#) website: PLEASE SHARE. Yes, we mean social media!

- [Vote411.org](#)
- [My Vote](#) (check your Oregon voter registration and Track Your Ballot)
- LWVOR Voter's Guides, [mobile-friendly](#), [Spanish](#), [printable PDF](#), [audio](#), [Printable Large Print](#)
- [Video Voters' Guides](#)

With COVID restrictions, we printed many fewer Voters' Guides because our usual distribution points were closed. We increased digital advertising and LWVOR Voter Service paid for some local advertising for local Leagues. We hope this drives voters to view our website(s). This is not automatic; it is all based on volunteer and staff work, inviting candidates and processing their information. This is a significant, impressive amount of work! Please thank your Voter Service Reps and our staff!

Work With LWVUS

Thanks to our expanded, vigorous LWVUS staff for coordinating on several fronts with us lately, from national Action and Voter Service, to help with Redistricting and sending litigation advice.

- **CARES Act.** Hats off to Josie Koehne, LWVOR Action Revenue, with Co-Coordinator Chris Vogel, who initiated requests to contact our congressional delegation, to support COVID Omnibus provision for children, and [HR 6579](#) & [S 3640](#), to repeal specific inequitable CARES Act business tax breaks. Thank you to LWVUS for approval and support!
- **Vote by Mail (VBM).** Our work on the CARES Act is rolling over into the Heroes Act, scheduled for an up or down House Floor vote on May 15th. [LWV Applauds Election Funding in House Heroes Act.](#)
- **Redistricting.** Fighting gerrymandering is a national League priority, with [People Powered Fair Maps!](#) On our call with LWVUS staff yesterday, they pushed us to set a goal: Ask every League member to send the Oregon IP 57 e-petition link for 5 others to sign and mail in! More in Action!
- **LWVUS Litigation Guidance.** Please contact Becky Gladstone, b.gladstone@lwwor.org for more information if your board is considering litigation.

Are you getting LWVUS [League Updates](#)? If not, please contact communications@lww.org

LWVUS Convention

Please help to coordinate our Oregon virtual delegation for the [LWVUS June Convention](#) by sending your delegate names to Becky Gladstone, b.gladstone@lwwor.org. We'll share more as soon as we hear. All three of our caucuses were approved ([schedule](#)):

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

That's it; thank you for reading! We'll "see" some of you at this weekend's Council. Please be sure to Vote, do join in and sign the redistricting e-petition, and take good care of yourselves! Yours in good health (i.e., hand washing, social distancing, and mask wearing) to protect each other!

Thank you for reading and please keep in touch! Warmly, sharing a virtual cup of tea, wishing resilience for all of us!

Becky Gladstone
President, LWVOR

Connect with us



A printable version of this newsletter can be found on our website [here](#).

