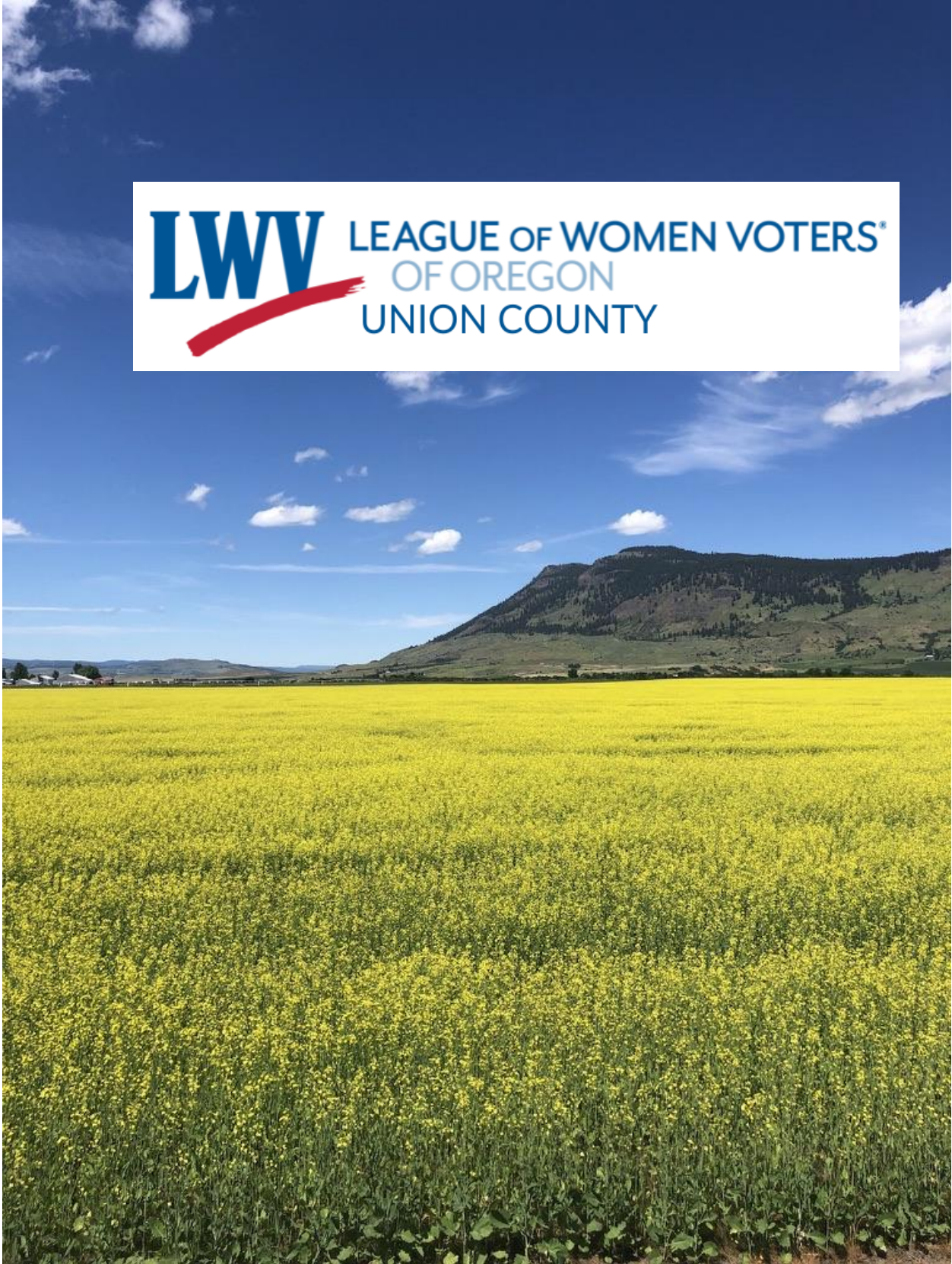




NEWSLETTER

July 11, 2026

Quote of the month:

“When a truth is not given complete freedom, freedom is not complete.”
Vaclav Havel

We've Been Busy. In case you missed it, here's what we've been up to.

La Grande Farmers' Market

On Saturday July 4th we had a fantastic Independence Day at the La Grande Farmers Market! Thanks to Anita Metlen and Robin Mitchell for their help! And a special thanks to Corrine Dutto for donating flags! They were a huge success.





Important upcoming events!

We decided to spend the summer months focusing on the Farmers Markets, Fairs and Festivals and will not have an Assembly Meeting until September. Our next Assembly meeting is on Sunday September 13th. We plan to meet at the **Anderson Perry Annex** next to Hobby Habit at 5:00 PM, not the EOU Library which is closed on Sundays in the summer. We will begin meeting at the EOU Library again in October.

Volunteer for Farmers Market. You'll share information on the League, help with voter registration, hand out VOTE411 cards and visit with your neighbors. We decided that in the Summer we would be at the Farmers Market on the first Saturday of the month. Then, beginning in September, we will go every weekend as we gear up for the November elections. **This is only possible if folks have the time to help.**

Volunteers are also needed to help at the:

- Grassroots Festival in Union on August 8th
- Cove Cherry Fair in Cove on August 15th

Let Marty Power know if you'd like to help at: lwvunioncounty@lwvopr.org.

2026 LWVUC Tentative Schedule:

(As a reminder, at our January Assembly meeting "It was moved that from April through September that meetings be held on the second Sunday of the month at 5 PM, and that from October through March meetings be held on the second Sunday of the month at 2 PM." We decided to have our meeting at the EOU Library, except during the summer months when it is closed on Sundays; we will meet during the summer at the Anderson Perry Annex.

August

- Saturday, August 1st, the Farmers Market in La Grande
- Saturday, August 8th, the Grassroots Festival in Union
- Saturday, August 15th, the Cove Cherry Fair, in Cove

September

- Saturday, September 5th, the Farmers Market in La Grande
- Saturday, September 12th, the Farmers Market in La Grande
- Sunday, September 13th, 5 PM at Anderson Perry Annex: Assembly Meeting and K-12 Consensus by LWVUC Unit on Safe and Healthy Schools
- Saturday, September 19th, the Farmers Market in La Grande
- Saturday, September 26th, the Farmers Market in La Grande

October

- Saturday, October 3rd, the Farmers Market in La Grande
- Saturday, October 10th, the Farmers Market in La Grande
- Sunday, October 11th, 2 PM at EOU Library: Assembly Meeting
- Saturday, October 17th, the Farmers Market in La Grande
- Saturday, October 24th, the Farmers Market in La Grande
- Saturday, October 31st, the Farmers Market in La Grande

November

- **Tuesday, November 3rd is the general election**
- Sunday, November 8th, 2 PM at EOU Library: Assembly Meeting

December

- Sunday, December 13th, 2 PM at EOU Library: Assembly Meeting

Feedback on the LWV Union County Unit is Welcome!

Submit suggestions, complaints, recommendations or input to our [suggestion box](#).

For more information about LWVUC:

Stay connected, stay involved! Join or renew your membership in the League. Anyone age 16 years or older, regardless of gender, can join.

Go to <https://www.lwvor.org/become-a-member> to become a member.

- LWVUC [website](https://unioncountyor.lwv.org/): <https://unioncountyor.lwv.org/>
- LWCUC [Facebook Page](https://www.facebook.com/LWVUC/): <https://www.facebook.com/LWVUC/> (THIS IS THE BEST PLACE TO GET CURRENT INFO ON OUR UNIT)

League contacts:

Marty Power, unit coordinator lwvunioncounty@lwvor.org

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Dustin Ellis, voter services lwvucvoterservices@gmail.com

Kim Olson-Charles, membership & voter girl lwvuc.membership@gmail.com

Meredee Lloyd, VOTE411 lwvucvote411@gmail.com

Kathleen Cathey, events coordinator kathleenmcathey@gmail.com

To support the Union County chapter, send tax deductible donations to <https://www.lwvor.org/donate> and click on the online donation, and write in/designate “for Union County.” **The Unit would like to thank those of you who added a donation to our Unit as you renewed or joined LWV.**

Donations are used for some production costs, banners, printed materials and the like. The LWV of Union County is an all-volunteer organization and charges no administrative costs.

LWV of Oregon News¹

K-12 Safe and Healthy Schools Study Materials Available

Jean Pierce, Action Chair

A report is now available for League members describing issues regarding Safe and Healthy K-12 Schools. This is the second of three parts of the K-12 study.

You can find the report as well as consensus statements and a powerpoint summarizing the issues [HERE](#) or click on the [Studies tab](#) on the LWVOR.org website.

Studying the reports and reaching consensus regarding issues is essential for the League's advocacy efforts. Every action that the League takes is based on a League position. Current LWVOR positions can be found in [Issues for Action](#).

Here is the timeline for the Safe and Healthy Schools part of the study:

- Local Leagues are being asked to hold consensus meetings and submit reports from those meetings by September 30
- Then, a Member Agreement Committee will take those reports and use the feedback to craft the final wording for position statements regarding Safe and Healthy Schools.
- The LWVOR Board will be asked whether it agrees with the wording. When it does, the Action Committee will be able to begin using the new position for advocacy.
- Finally, delegates to the 2027 LWVOR Convention will vote whether to accept or reject the position statements.

Materials for the **K-12 Career and Technical Education study** will be shared with Leagues by November and consensus reports will be due January 31.

Can the Post Office Stop Mail-in Voting in Oregon?

(from the LWV of Coos County-Thanks!)

- On March 31, 2026, President Donald Trump issued an executive order directing the postmaster-general to propose a rule that would block states from sending ballots through the mail unless they were addressed to voters named on lists provided by the states to the Postal Service. Five lawsuits, including one by LWVUS, have been filed against it. In a suit in D.C., a federal judge declined to pause

¹ As many on our mailing list are not yet members of the League of Women Voters, we include information from the LWV of Oregon and the LWV of the U.S. newsletters for their information.

the order because it was premature when no government departments had weighed in yet on implementation.

- On June 2, the Postal Service published its first step in compliance. The Post Office's rule exempts military and overseas voters, whose participation in elections is governed by the federal Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act. It also does not require voter lists for primary elections. But the ultimate plan is to stop the Post Office from delivering ballots in states that refuse to provide a list of absentee voters. (The postal workers union has taken a position against this plan.)
- Then the Department of Homeland Security announced its plan: DHS is creating lists of voting-age citizens in each state and supplying them to state elections officials to compare against their voter rolls. Data provided in compliance with the USPS rule would be compared to existing federal databases "to monitor mail-in and absentee ballot flows, identify anomalies that may suggest voter fraud and abuse, and generate authorized investigative leads." A few days later in a court filing, DHS backed off partly from its own plan, saying the idea was in its early stages and was dependent on approval of the USPS rule. Some states had previously submitted their voter rolls for federal scrutiny, including Texas, Oklahoma, Indiana, and Wyoming.
- The suits challenging the executive order center on the claim that the U.S. Constitution gives states the responsibility to run elections and allows Congress—but not the president—to pass regulations affecting elections. Another concern is that it transforms the USPS from an independent agency tasked with delivering mail to an arm of the administration with power to decide what mail to deliver, and to whom. Finally, there are concerns about what specific information about voters the states would be required to submit. Some voter information is publicly available, but past efforts by the administration have sought to obtain more personal information for a federal database; the state of Oregon has successfully resisted those efforts so far.
- On June 25, a Massachusetts judge in a case brought by attorneys general from Democratic states blocked parts of the order from taking effect before the November election; the case is ongoing, however.

LWV of the United States News

 **July 14 at 12:30pm PT**

Democracy Integrity Briefing

Join LWV and the National Conference on Citizenship Algorithmic Transparency Institute for our monthly briefing to identify and address the latest national, statewide, and local trends in mis-and-disinformation.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

 **July 15 at 12:00pm PT**

Teaming with Solutions: LWV and Library Collaborations to Empower Voters and Protect Democracy

Join the American Library Association and the League of Women Voters to hear about what's at stake in the 2026 midterm elections, and how libraries and Leagues can partner to help voters make their voices heard.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Save the Date: Day of Action on August 8

Unite & Rise for Voting Rights

Saturday, August 8, is the 60th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. **LWVUS** is calling on Leagues all around the country to participate in a National Day of Action focused on the ongoing fight for a stronger, more inclusive democracy.

“There may be times when we are powerless to prevent injustice, but there must never be a time when we fail to protest.”

—Elie Wiesel

League of Women Voters Condemns President Trump's Removal of Election Assistance Commission Commissioners

WASHINGTON, DC — The League of Women Voters issued the following statement from CEO Celina Stewart in response to President Trump's removal of the serving commissioners of the bipartisan US Election Assistance Commission (EAC):

"Removing the commissioners of the Election Assistance Commission is a direct attack on the independence of our nation's election infrastructure. This extraordinary action strips the EAC of its bipartisan leadership at a moment when election officials need support, stability, and protection from political pressure.

"The American people deserve elections administered by trusted professionals, not shaped by political interference. This is not a routine personnel decision — it is a dangerous escalation in the effort to weaken the safeguards that protect free and fair elections in the November midterms.

"Congress established the EAC on a bipartisan basis in the wake of the contested 2000 presidential election. The Help America Vote Act of 2002 created a politically balanced structure designed to remain independent of any administration's political interest. Under presidents of both parties, the EAC has required bipartisan agreement to make policy, with the goal of strengthening our elections, supporting the officials who administer them, and helping ensure every eligible voter can cast a ballot with confidence and know that their ballot will be counted.

"Federal elections are conducted at the state and local level, and the EAC does not count votes or run elections. But the EAC plays a vital role in supporting the professionals who do. It helps election officials prepare for secure and accessible elections, provides guidance and resources, and strengthens the systems voters rely on. Undermining its bipartisan leadership threatens the stability and public trust our election system depends on.

"This latest action is part of a broader pattern of efforts to weaken the institutions that safeguard our democracy. From restricting access to the ballot to dismantling the independent systems that support free and fair elections, the Trump administration has repeatedly put politics ahead of the American people's right to vote.

"Free and fair elections depend on independent, nonpartisan election administration. Election officials deserve the resources and independence to serve voters without political interference. We thank the EAC Commissioners for their public service and

recognize the significant contributions they have made on behalf of election officials and voters across the country.

“The League of Women Voters will continue to stand with the election officials who protect our democracy and will oppose any effort to undermine the integrity, independence, and public trust that free and fair elections require. Voters can learn more about how to support election officials in their communities at: <https://www.electionheroday.org>.”

