



# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF OREGON *Education Fund*

## Biennial Report 2007-2009

### Celebrating Our Successes

- Provided Voters' Guides in seven formats including online, audio and Braille to almost 386,000 voters
- Expanded our online voter information, reaching over 300% more people
- Involved 75,000 students in the Oregon Student Mock Election
- Completed and published two in-depth studies on elections and water issues
- Inspired hundreds of volunteers to give over 200,000 hours to League studies and voter service



**Providing  
Trusted  
Facts on  
Elections  
and Issues**



**A**s 2007-09 chair of the LWVOR Education Fund, I've had the privilege of working with teams of dedicated volunteers to achieve these successes. Together **we have accomplished an extraordinary amount** in the past two years.

Our major achievements from July 2007 to June 2009 include adapting to the expanding needs of the public for reliable voter information that is appealing and accessible. To help us meet this challenge, we contracted with Cogan



Janet Calvert  
Chair  
2007-09

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# Educating Voters and Future Voters



Our voter service efforts for the 2008 elections were truly outstanding, involving well over a hundred LWV volunteers and over 1000 volunteer hours. We worked to educate voters and future voters through printed, audio and on-line versions of our

*Voters' Guide*. We distributed more than 385,000 printed copies of our *Voters' Guide* in seven different versions, including guides for both statewide and local candidates and measures, an Easy Voting Guide, a Spanish version and a large-print edition.

*"The League's Voters' Guide is highly valued by voters wanting unbiased information, not just advertising sound bites."*

Phil Keisling, Barbara Roberts, and Norma Paulus, former Oregon Secretaries of State



Our member Leagues sponsored over 50 debates, forums, and speakers' bureau presentations in communities throughout Oregon. Members also produced community cable TV programs, registered voters, and worked to increase voter turnout.

The LWVOR Education Fund coordinated an expanded Oregon Student Mock Election. Over 75,000 students in 300 schools throughout Oregon participated, a three-fold increase from previous years. The Mock Election not only won accolades from students and teachers, but also received our third national award for its outstanding program.



US Senator Kurt Schrader presented our most recent national award, for Outstanding Leadership in Voter Education, to League members.



*"[Students] ended up educating their parents on the election and process...I know many parents became involved and voted because of what their child was learning."*

Participating teacher, 2008 Oregon Student Mock Election

## About the League of Women Voters of Oregon and the LWVOR Education Fund

Founded in 1920, the League of Women Voters of Oregon (LWVOR) has a membership of more than 1,500 women and men volunteers. Our Education Fund was established in 1980, affirming our commitment to providing nonpartisan information to help Oregonians understand vital public issues that affect us all. LWVOR is the advocacy arm of the League, while the Education Fund provides information that is as balanced and neutral as possible.

## Nonpartisanship

The LWVOR Education Fund is totally nonpartisan and educational and does not advocate for or against any party, candidate, policy or ballot issue. Statements, voters' guides, reports, and presentations under the auspices of the Education Fund reflect a balanced look at the pros and cons of an issue and do not favor a particular position.

On the other hand, our sister organization, LWVOR, may take stands on issues after we have conducted a thorough, balanced study of these issues through our Education Fund **and** after LWVOR members have discussed and agreed upon an advocacy position based on the findings of the study. LWVOR is also a non-partisan organization and never supports or opposes any political candidate or political party.

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.

## Researching and Presenting Critical Issues



We completed a major study on "Election Methods: Review of Alternatives and Oregon Proposals". This thorough, well-researched report has been cited in testimony and the *Oregon Law Review* and is an important resource for students, lawmakers, and reformers.

We also completed the first part of a three-year project to comprehend water resources in Oregon.

Our water study report, "Water in Oregon – Not a Drop to Waste, Part I," received praise for its balanced approach and integration of both water quality and quantity, concepts usually segregated by Oregon's government. Part II of the report will be published in the spring of 2010.

League members have shared information on these important issues with their communities by hosting forums and other educational events.



## Sharing our Strengths and Developing Leaders



*"Involvement with the League is an ongoing education. I enjoy sitting with some of the most knowledgeable women and men in the community, ... and coming to understand the context of current issues and their potential ramifications. How fortunate I am to be sitting at this table."*

Renee Buchanan, member, LWV of Lane County

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228 LWV members and 262 friends made donations to the LWVOR Education Fund in 2007-2009 in amounts ranging from \$5 to \$3,800. These donations from individuals totaled \$99,689, or almost 47% of our income!

The names of all our donors are listed on our web site, [www.lwvor.org](http://www.lwvor.org). We greatly value and depend on their generosity and are grateful to all of them for helping us make democracy work in Oregon.

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Owens Cogan to evaluate our materials and to suggest innovative methods to inform voters with our respected nonpartisan and balanced information about candidates and ballot measures. These outstanding achievements reflect the generous support from partner organizations, our generous donors and especially devoted volunteers.

**Participating in League projects is very satisfying for LWVOR members,** who are justifiably proud of our work to make Oregon's democracy stronger. Donor financial support is greatly enhanced by the hundreds of hours contributed by members.

**Please join us in making democracy work in Oregon.**



## Our Mission

**The LWVOR Education Fund** works to encourage the active and informed participation of citizens in government and to increase understanding of major policy issues.

We seek to provide balanced, accurate, nonpartisan information to all Oregonians.

## Financial Report: LWVOR Education Fund

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>FY 07-08</u>	<u>FY 08-09</u>	<u>Biennium 07-09</u>
LWVOR member cash contributions	29,007	33,748	
Non-member cash contributions	26,820	10,114	
Non-cash contributions	15,316	3,511	
Grants	40,830	41,610	
Interest/dividends	2,517	1,004	
From Endowment Fund	4,680	5,024	
Miscellaneous	270	1,409	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$119,440</b>	<b>\$96,420</b>	<b>\$215,860</b>
<u>EXPENSES</u>	<u>FY 07-08</u>	<u>FY 08-09</u>	<u>Biennium 07-09</u>
Office and Administration	26,874	32,417	
Development	4,574	2,891	
Studies: Research and Publications	2,035	10,025	
Voter Service	52,403	79,640	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$85,886</b>	<b>\$124,973</b>	<b>\$210,859</b>