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State Library of Oregon



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## Partnership Brings Accessible Voting Information to People with Print Impairments



*By Joel Henderson, Admin Specialist, Talking Book and Braille Library*

For more than a decade, the Talking Book and Braille Library has partnered with the League of Women Voters of Oregon to produce an accessible voters' guide for statewide primary and general elections. Thanks to their joint efforts, over 700 Oregonians with print impairments are able to learn about candidates and initiatives and be ready to vote independently!

That last word, *independently*, is really the crux of the issue. Needing the help of a family member, friend, or care provider to access voting information may find a person swayed by their helper's conscious or even unconscious biases. Having access to impartial information when voting so that each person can make their own decision without being unduly influenced is a vital aspect of a healthy democracy. This partnership aims to give people with print impairments that access.

The partnership plays to both organizations' strengths. League members use their experience to collect and organize voting information, ballot measure research, and responses to a standard set of questions asked to each candidate running for a particular office into a cohesive guide. The guide is then provided to the Talking Book and Braille Library in both text and audio so they can create large print, Braille, and audio versions to distribute to subscribed users.

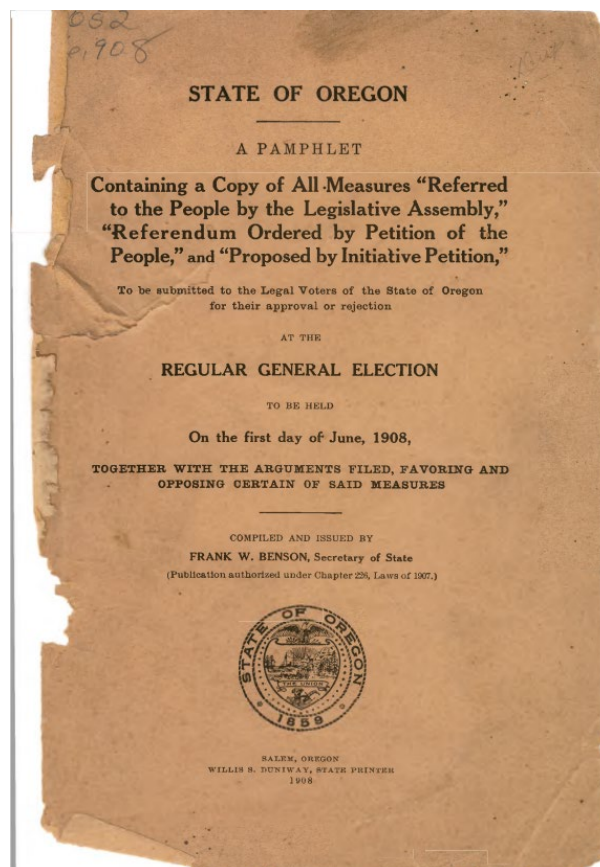
The League has proven to be a thoughtful and inclusive partner. The Talking Book and Braille Library is consistently impressed by the League's commitment to making sure everyone has access to genuinely impartial candidate and ballot measure information. The League's process has the needs of people with print-impairments in mind from the start, so their guide can be easily adapted into various formats like audio and Braille. The folks who put the guide together are responsive, knowledgeable, and caring.

One of the best indicators of the League's commitment to providing transparent and unbiased information is their policy towards editing candidate responses to the questions they ask. Candidate responses are intentionally unedited, so any spelling, grammar, or punctuation mistakes make it into the final guide. It is a small but meaningful way both to give voters a more accurate picture of each candidate and to maintain impartiality.

The League's voters' guide is available to anyone on their website: <https://www.lwv.or.org/vote>. And if you haven't already, you still have time to vote. Be sure to postmark your ballot or drop it off at an official ballot box by Tuesday, November 8.

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## Oregon Voters' Pamphlets: A Rich Source of History



*By Dave Hegeman, Reference Librarian, Government Information and Library Services*

As this month's newsletter appears just days before another Election Day, it's worth taking time to reflect on a staple of Oregon government: the Voters' Pamphlet, the [most recent edition](#) of which was sent out in late October. The Beaver State was one of the first in the U.S. to publish these election guides, beginning in 1904, to disseminate the text of measures to be voted on by the people of Oregon. In 1910, the guides included information on federal and state-level candidates as well.

As publications issued by the Secretary of State's Office, Voters' Pamphlets are part of the [Oregon Documents Depository Program](#) and included in State Library of Oregon physical and [digital collections](#). The online collection of historical pamphlets covers general, primary, and special elections, including all counties, beginning in 2012 (2014 for primary). Voters' Pamphlets from 1904 to 2012 include all Marion County pamphlets and statewide elections.

Voters' Pamphlets contain a trove of historic information, including:

- The full text of all measures voted on by the people
  - Explanatory statements and arguments for and against measures
  - Statements, biographical information, and portraits of candidates running for state office and U.S. presidential and congressional office
  - Political party platforms
  - Many county, city, and other local election candidates and referenda may also appear as well (counties often publish their own voters' pamphlets)
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# Northwest Digital Heritage Celebrates New Digital Collection with Athena Public Library

*By Ross Fuqua, Data & Digital Projects Consultant, Library Support and Development Services*



Northwest Digital Heritage is pleased to announce its recent partnership with the Athena Public Library to create Athena Heritage, a digital collection featuring images and documents from all over their city. Interested in local Athena history? Looking to learn more about their community? You've come to the right place!

The Athena Heritage collection includes dozens of images and documents from the Athena Public Library's Local History Collection, recently digitized and hosted online through the State Library's [Northwest Digital Heritage](#) program. Many of the items in the collection are from local schools and families in the community. These items will also soon be discoverable in the national [Digital Public Library of America](#) (DPLA) platform, via Northwest Digital Heritage's DPLA hub efforts. (ICYMI, we [launched our DPLA local web portal](#) just last month!)



Athena Heritage is Oregon's first newly digitized collection to come online via Northwest Digital Heritage. Using the Washington State Library's Washington Rural Heritage program as a model, Northwest Digital Heritage seeks to create and enhance access to collections at Oregon's smaller libraries and museums through digitization and metadata harvesting and training, as well as by migrating existing digital collections to more accessible platforms. We're really excited to digitize even more material from the Athena Public Library's collection this fall, and we're looking forward to working with more Oregon organizations in the near future.

Northwest Digital Heritage is a partnership between the State Library of Oregon, Oregon Heritage, and the Washington State Library. To date, Northwest Digital Heritage has added over 200,000 unique items related to Northwest history and culture, and has recently worked with the Orbis Cascade Alliance, Oregon Digital, and University of Washington Libraries to create a distinctly Northwest portal of over a half million unique items available at: [nwdh.dp.la](http://nwdh.dp.la).

To view Athena Heritage, please visit [northwestdigitalheritage.org/athena](http://northwestdigitalheritage.org/athena). For questions and inquiries about Northwest Digital Heritage, please contact Ross Fuqua, Data & Digital Projects Consultant, State Library of Oregon, at [ross.fuqua@slo.oregon.gov](mailto:ross.fuqua@slo.oregon.gov).



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## OrDoc of the Month: It's Time to Fall Back



*By Jey Wann, Oregon Documents Coordinator, Government Information and Library Services*

In November, it's time to leave Daylight Saving Time (DST) behind and fall back to Standard Time.

When, and whether, to change between DST and Standard Time has been in the news lately. More and more states, including Oregon, are updating laws with the goal of adopting either permanent DST or permanent Standard Time.

This issue is not new. The United States adopted DST (or "War Time") during both world wars and during the energy crisis of the early 1970s.

In 1973, the United States was looking for ways to cut energy consumption. Congress introduced bills to adopt permanent DST. In response to these bills, Oregon Legislative Research published [Year-Round Daylight](#)



[Saving Time: Implications for Energy Conservation](#). The report concluded that year-round DST would result in a “very slight” savings of about 0.1% and also listed several drawbacks to the plan, including children traveling to school while it was still dark in the morning

The United States did adopt DST in January 1974 but returned to Standard Time in October due to lack of support for the time change.

If you'd like more information about Daylight Saving Time and Standard Time, you can spend part of your extra “fall back” hour reading this article from [Smithsonian magazine](#).

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## Talking Book and Braille Library TRIVIA TIME!

We're back with another Talking Book and Braille Library Trivia Time! But before we get to this month's question, here is last month's answer:

*The #explainabookplotbadly example “Assassin recognizes orphan” describes the plot of which book? **Intrigues by Mercedes Lackey***

Thank you to everyone who submitted their answers, and feel free to keep participating each month. [Here is this month's question:](#)

*Q: After becoming director of the National Library Service in 2012, which project did Karen Keninger make a top priority?*

- Transitioning from books on cassettes to digital audio cartridges
- Creating a mobile app for their download-on-demand service BARD
- Finding a good prop forward for the Hockley-cum-Meston Rugby Club

- Developing a BARD streaming skill for smart speakers



**Hint:** you can find the answer in a [previous issue of Connections](#).

Click the button above to submit your answer to the trivia question. If you provide your name and contact information and answer the question correctly, **you may win a fun prize!**

Check back next month to see the answer, and we'll be back with more trivia in future *Connections* issues.

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## Mission

The State Library of Oregon cultivates, preserves, and delivers library and information services to foster lifelong learning and community engagement.



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