



The League of Women Voters of Oregon, established in 1920, is a grassroots nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. We envision informed Oregonians participating in a fully accessible, responsive, and transparent government to achieve the common good. LWVOR Legislative Action is based on advocacy positions formed through studies and member consensus. The League never supports or opposes any candidate or political party.

February 3, 2026

To: Rep Thùy Trần, Chair, and members of the House Committee On Emergency Management and Veterans

Re: HB 4091 – Relating to the Oregon National Guard – **Support**

The League urges you to support HB 4091 which defines Oregon National Guard mobilization terms and authority of the Governor and Adjutant General, including prohibitions for other forces without their consent. We speak based on League positions and principles, lightly abridged. The League of Women Voters supports:

- Ensuring that we the people can hold our government accountable without fear of violence from the government
- Fostering public trust at all stages, including policing practices
- Eliminating systemic bias, including disproportionately policing marginalized communities
- Policing practices that promote safety for law enforcement officers and the communities they serve
- Collaboration between government and community throughout all stages of criminal justice

It is unusual for the National Guard to be called without a request from the Governor. The Ohio Governor called their National Guard to Kent State on May 4, 1970, for a Vietnam war protest.¹ The President has deployed Oregon National Guard troops around our state for ICE raid protests recently, as he did in Portland and Seattle in 2020², for George Floyd protests. The League of Women Voters (US) has condemned National Guard deployment to Portland, finding it unjustified.³ Oregonian leaders, state and city, did not ask for our Oregonian service members, who live here, have jobs and families to attend to, to be activated.

This is from the Oregon Army National Guard⁴ Mission: *The Oregon National Guard responds when disaster strikes at home. We get to help Americans in America when they need it most. As a Soldier in the Oregon National Guard, your primary place of duty is your home state. Typically, National Guard Soldiers live in their home area, where they can work at a civilian job and be close to friends and family.*

The Governor can mobilize the National Guard for any officially declared State emergency. These are typically weather-related emergencies, but civil unrest or terrorist attacks are other types of emergencies that you may respond to. You'll also answer the call when your country needs you around the world. The National Guard responds to overseas combat missions as well as peacekeeping and stability operations. This is our unique dual role—serving in our communities and country.

Calls to “active service” would be for training, to support a congressionally authorized call for the military, or to address a natural disaster. Consent would not be given for an operation, if it would incapacitate response for a statewide emergency.

We urge your Support for HB 4091 and thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

Barbara Klein
Acting President LWVOR

Rebecca Gladstone
Governance Co-Coordinator

¹ The May 4 Shootings at Kent State University: The Search for Historical Accuracy. Kent State University. <https://www.kent.edu/may-4-historical-accuracy>

² 2020 Deployment of federal forces in the United States. Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2020_deployment_of_federal_forces_in_the_United_States#:~:text=In%20July%202020%2C%20federal%20forces,clear%20identification%20badges%20generated%20outrage

³ League of Women Voters Condemns Unjustified National Guard Deployment to Portland. Sept 29, 2025. <https://www.lwvor.org/post/league-of-women-voters-condemns-unjustified-national-guard-deployment-to-portland>

⁴ Oregon Army National Guard Mission. <https://www.oregonarmygard.com/our-mission>