



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.

June 24, 2025

To: Chair [Jama](#), [Members of the Senate Rules Committee](#)

Re: [HB 3954 A](#) – Oregon National Guard activation terms – **COMMENTS**

The League urges you to support the revised HB 3954. It sets terms and defines prohibitions for Oregon National Guard activation by the Adjutant General, for calling the Guard individuals or units into active service. 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 US armed forces to be called against our own people, reflecting deep political and social divisions. The President deployed 2,000 California National Guard troops to Los Angeles for ICE raid protests recently,ⁱ as he has in Portland and Seattle in 2020 for George Floyd protests. The Ohio Governor called their National Guard to Kent State on May 4, 1970 for a Vietnam war protest.ⁱⁱ

We have 1977 positions, revised in 2002, for UN peacekeeping operations (US troops on foreign soil):

- Preventive deployment of UN peacekeepers to forestall the outbreak of hostilities.
- ***Intervention, as a last resort***, to halt genocide and other crimes against humanity and to prevent the spread of conflict.
- Protection of civilian populations, including protection of displaced persons.
- Long-term commitment, both pre- and post-conflict, to establishing the institutions and conditions needed for real economic and social development.

We need a protective guard rail. The California Governor sought an injunction against an “unlawful deployment”ⁱⁱⁱ and “a serious breach of state sovereignty”.^{iv} An additional 700 US Marines were mobilized, underscoring that this “appears to be laying groundwork for more expansive use of the military to suppress dissent...completely unprecedented under any legal authority”.^v The LWV and LWV California responded, “A functioning democracy must ensure that we the people can hold our government accountable without fear of violence from the government.”^{vi}

We reviewed Washington State HB 1321^{vii}, which requires the Governor’s permission for National Guard troops from other states, territories, or districts to enter Washington, unless mobilized by the president (who may legally prevail). It was based on Idaho’s “Defend the Guard” acts, SB 1252 (2024)^{viii}, and SB 1145 (2023)^{ix}. Similar recent proposals in Montana^x and Texas^{xi} have not progressed.

This deserves timely consideration, especially with President Trump saying, “And one of the other things I’ll do — because you’re supposed to not be involved in that, you just have to be asked by the governor or the mayor to come in — the next time, I’m not waiting.”^{xii} The question here is “whether he is essentially trying to deploy the powers of the Insurrection Act without invoking it.”^{xiii}

We urge your consideration to enact HB 3954. Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.



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CC: [Rep Thủy Trần](#), [Rep Paul Evans](#), [Rep Willy Chotzen](#), [Rep Dacia Grayber](#), [Sen Anthony Broadman](#), [Sen Lew Frederick](#), [Sen James L. Manning, Jr.](#), [Rep Tom Andersen](#), [Rep Farrah Chaichi](#), [Rep April Dobson](#), [Rep Mark Gamba](#), [Rep Pam Marsh](#)

These end notes were all accessed on June 9, 2025:

- ⁱ 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%2020%2C%20federal%20forces.clear%20identification%20badges%20generated%20outrage
- ⁱⁱ The May 4 Shootings at Kent State University: The Search for Historical Accuracy. Kent State University. <https://www.kent.edu/may-4-historical-accuracy>
- ⁱⁱⁱ California files lawsuit over Trump's 'unlawful' deployment of national guard. The Guardian. <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/jun/09/california-lawsuit-national-guard-trump>
- ^{iv} 4 things to know about the immigration raid protests that roiled LA this weekend. KUOW. <https://www.kuow.org/stories/4-things-to-know-about-the-immigration-raid-protests-that-roiled-la-this-weekend>
- ^v Trump charts new territory in bypassing Newsom to deploy National Guard. Washington Post. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2025/06/08/trump-national-guard-la-protests-law/>
- ^{vi} League of Women Voters Condemns Use of Federal Force on Peaceful Protestors. <https://www.lwv.org/newsroom/press-releases/league-women-voters-condemns-use-federal-force-peaceful-protestor>
- ^{vii} Governor Bob Ferguson signs bill restricting armed forces from entering Washington. WA Governor Bob Ferguson, News. <https://governor.wa.gov/news/2025/governor-bob-ferguson-signs-bill-restricting-armed-forces-entering-washington>
- ^{viii} SB 1252, State of Idaho, 67th Legislature, Second Regular Session, relating to the National Guard. <https://legislature.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/sessioninfo/2024/legislation/S1252.pdf>
- ^{ix} SB 1145, State of Idaho, 67th Legislature, First Regular Session, relating to the National Guard. <https://legislature.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/sessioninfo/2023/legislation/S1145.pdf>
- ^x Montana Defend the Guard handout. Sept 5, 2024. <https://archive.legmt.gov/content/Committees/Interim/2023-2024/State-Administration-and-Veterans-Affairs/Meetings/Sept.5.24/Tab-10-DMA-Agency-Update/HANDOUT-Defend-the-Guard-SAVA-5SEP24.pdf>
- ^{xi} Texas HB 930, (2025), Left pending in subcommittee. Texas Legislature online. <https://capitol.texas.gov/BillLookup/History.aspx?LegSess=89R&Bill=HB930>
- ^{xii} See end note #5, WA Post, above.
- ^{xiii} Could Trump mobilize Washington state's National Guard if immigration raid protests break out? OPB. <https://www.opb.org/article/2025/06/09/could-trump-mobilize-washington-state-s-national-guard-if-immigration-raid-protests-break-out/>