



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF OREGON

April 1, 2013

To: House Committee on Rules
Representative Chris Garrett, Chair

Re: HB 2543 and HJR 15 Initiative Must cover costs of proposal SUPPORT

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan grass roots political organization that encourages informed citizen participation in government. The League has long supported direct democracy, which includes the initiative process. At the same time, we have worked with other citizen groups to ensure that initiative proposals must indicate the public cost impact, if implemented. The next step is brought forward in HB 2543. Actually requiring chief petitioners to state how the new statute or constitutional change would be financed is critical, and necessary, to good state fiscal policy.

The League does not take proposed amendments to the Oregon Constitution lightly. In the case of HB 2543 and HJR 15, such an amendment appears essential to improving the basic initiative process and making it more accountable. There have been too many past initiatives with long term financial consequences, which have led to General Fund cuts to important public services and programs.

We look forward to the discussion around the issues in HB 2543 and HJR 15.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Robin Wisdom
President

Kappy Eaton
Governance Coordinator