



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF OREGON**

April 17, 2013

To: House Committee on Rules
Representative Chris Garrett, Chair

Re: HJR 27 Two-thirds majority vote OPPOSE

The League of Women Voters is a grassroots, non-partisan political organization that encourages informed citizen participation in government. Requiring a super majority vote is not part of basic democracy. The League opposes HJR 27.

The League believes that the Oregon Constitution should be a basic framework of state government, free of statutory details. It should guarantee basic democratic rights to the people of the state. As representatives of their constituents, members of the Legislature should be able to pass laws and refer constitutional amendments to citizens by a simple majority. At the request of the U.S. State Department, the League worked with officials in Hungary to train them in how to help educate voters about democracy. In Bosnia, we were part of elections supervision and demonstrated the importance of democracy. Their respective parliaments do not require super majorities.

The League does not believe that HJR 27 enhances or improves the ability of the Oregon Legislature to function adequately. It actually may hinder progress. We recommend that you not move HJR 27 forward.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Robin Wisdom
President

Kappy Eaton
Governance Coordinator