



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF OREGON

May 8, 2013

To: House Committee on Rules  
Representative Chris Garrett, Chair

Re: HB 3521 Voter Registration Modernization SUPPORT


The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a non-partisan, grass roots political organization that educates and encourages citizen participation in government. For 93 years, the League has been involved with promoting voter registration to allow individuals to be active in choosing their representatives in our democratic form of government. HB 3521 will offer that opportunity.

We believe that HB 3521 clarifies and improves its predecessor, HB 2198. It particularly addresses and provides more flexibility for the work of the county election officials in the implementation of the legislation. It also alleviates the costs and difficulty of redrawing precinct lines with the addition of many new voters.

Two further comments. First, the more citizens who participate in elections, the more legitimacy they give to both themselves and to the process of government. Second, HB 3521 enables Oregon to move into the 21<sup>st</sup> century of elections with automatic voter registration. Many countries already have this system. I have commented about Hungary and Bosnia previously, but another example is Iraq. In 2009, their first open election in many years, they implemented an automatic voter registration system. The decision was based on using the most cost-effective, secure and accessible registration process available.

The League believes Oregon should move ahead to broaden and improve voter registration. We strongly recommend that you move HB 3521 out of committee with a “do pass” recommendation.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

  
Robin Wisdom  
President

  
Kappy Eaton  
Governance Coordinator