



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF OREGON**

June 13, 2013

To: Ways and Means SubCommittee on General Government
Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, Co-Chair
Representative Greg Smith, Co-Chair

Re: HB 3506A Task Force on Minority Language Voting Materials Support

The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a non-partisan, grassroots political organization that encourages informed citizen participation in government. HB 3506A would establish a Task Force to discuss and recommend how to provide election materials to Oregon citizens for whom English is a second language. The proposal has come about as a result of legislation to require the Secretary of State and county election officials to provide such materials under certain county population figures.

HB 3506A presents a very reasonable and efficient way to move the discussion and a solution forward. The League is supportive of this effort for the following reasons.

1. We believe that democratic government depends upon the informed and active participation of its citizens.
2. We believe that every citizen should be protected in the right to vote.
3. We recognize that election procedures and voter information are critical elements to an informed and participating electorate.
4. We believe the state has an obligation to provide voters with accurate information so they can make reasoned choices, and the publication and distribution of a state-wide Voters Pamphlet is part of that obligation.

HB 3506A presents an opportunity to explore in depth how best to provide Oregon's growing population of second English language speaking citizens with the tools they need to become fully participating Oregonians. The complexity of some ballot measures is, in itself, good reason to consider helping voters to understand the issues. The League urges you to recognize the importance of this proposal to educate and involve voters.

Thank you for this opportunity to support HB 3506A.

Robin Wisdom
President

Kappy Eaton
Governance Coordinator