



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF OREGON

March 20, 2013

To: House Committee on Rules
Representative Chris Garrett, Chair

Re: HB 2198 Modernization of Voter Registration SUPPORT

The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a non-partisan, grass roots political organization that encourages informed citizen participation in government. The League recognizes that election procedures and voter information are critical elements to an informed and participating electorate. We believe a variety of practices are necessary to provide the public with adequate information regarding where and how to register, as well as to under what circumstances and how to reregister.

HB 2198 offers an improved registration process which is accessible and easily understood, as well as being easy to implement and administer. It also moves forward the National Voting Rights Act with a secure system that removes barriers to the ballot, increases ballot security, and collects the registration information required by state and federal law. Essential to the proposed modernization process is the voter verification procedure, and the ability of verified voters to choose whether to participate. The notice sent to voters also will offer the opportunity to indicate a choice of political parties or non-affiliation.

In the League's recent study of Election Methods, members agreed that evaluation criteria should include (1) promotion of voter participation; (2) simplicity and ease of understanding; (3) verifiable and auditable; and (4) be compatible with the vote-by-mail system. HB 2198 meets these criteria.

It's time to use the secure and available technology to update and improve Oregon's voter registration process and increase citizen participation in elections. The League of Women Voters urges you to support HB 2198. Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Robin Wisdom in cursive.

Robin Wisdom
LWVOR President

Handwritten signature of Kappy Eaton in cursive.

Kappy Eaton
Governance Coordinator