



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF OREGON**

February 5, 2014

To: House Committee on Revenue  
Representative Phil Barnhart, Chair

Re: HB 4141 School Tax Exemptions                      Comments

The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a non-partisan, political organization that encourages informed citizen participation in government. For many years our members have supported adequate and equitable funding for Oregon's public schools at both the local and state levels. We believe HB 4141 offers an excellent opportunity for continuing serious discussions about solutions for the K-12 school system underfunding.

Since 1991 and the implementation of Measure #5 (1990), the quality and infrastructure of public education for Oregon children has been diminishing. The situation has worsened because of the inability of local property taxes and state resources to support the growing student population. Aging facilities, demands for new technology, overcrowded classrooms, special needs students, and shortened school years all have contributed to the problem. Now we are embarked on the 40-40-20 program. The state is dedicating greater resources, and local school districts also must have the ability to contribute to the new education effort.

HB 4141 seeks to assist the local funding effort and address the continuing compression of the major resource for schools. The League urges the Committee to discuss the issues raised and to consider a placeholder for the 2015 legislative session.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Robin Wisdom  
President

Kappy Eaton  
Governance Coordinator