



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF OREGON

February 18, 2014

To: Senate Committee on Rules
Senator Diane Rosenbaum, Chair

Re: SB 1504 Election Law Revisions Comments

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan political organization that encourages informed citizen participation in government. SB 1504 is an omnibus election law revision measure which impacts several areas of the Oregon statutes such as initiatives, nominees' names on ballots, unsigned ballots, and ballot collection and delivery by a third party. Following are the League's comments.

The extension of the list of prior violations for which a person will not be allowed to gather signatures, to include having been cited for an election law violation, creates an additional protection against initiative fraud and the Oregon direct democracy system. The revision to the timing of the criminal background check also makes sense.

Regarding the new provision which clarifies the challenge to a voter whose signature on the returned ballot envelope does not match the signature on file, we agree that the registration should be invalid. We also believe that allowing a candidate nominated for more than one district office at the same election is entitled to have his/her name printed more than once makes good election sense.

The new proposed regulations regarding electioneering by county elections offices also clarify and improve the ability of citizens to participate in campaigns.

The League generally approves of the proposed revisions to the state's election statutes as provided in SB 1504. Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robin Wisdom".

Robin Wisdom
President

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kappy Eaton".

Kappy Eaton
Governance Coordinator