



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF OREGON**

February 2, 2015

To: Oregon House Committee on Rules
Representative Val Hoyle, Chair
erin.seiler@state.or.us

Re: HB 2177, Voter Registration: SUPPORT

The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a non-partisan, political organization which encourages and educates citizens to participate in government. For 95 years, the League has been working to ensure that persons eligible to vote have the ability to do so, from local to presidential elections. HB 2177 will continue our principle that democratic government depends upon the informed and active participation of its citizens.

The League believes a variety of practices are necessary to provide the public with adequate information regarding where and how to register and also under what circumstances and how to reregister. Specifically these include:

1. A registration process which is accessible, well publicized and easily understood, as well as easy to administer and implement.
2. Mail-in registration forms which are convenient and widely available.
3. Oregon implementation of the National Voter Registration Act which includes registration process training for agency personnel.

HB 2177 brings the state's voter registration process and procedures into the technology age and will enable thousands of eligible voters to be easily registered. At this time, the DMV is already equipped with the necessary registration data to forward to the Secretary of State for processing. The ability of notified persons to opt out or to sign up for party affiliation is necessary and important. HB 2177 also clarifies the process, an improvement over the 2013 proposal.

Enactment of this legislation also carries responsibilities for those of us already engaged in election participation. It is essential that we encourage the newly registered to learn about issues and candidates and to cast their votes. Oregon already leads the nation in voter turnout; now we need to increase both registration and turnout. The League urges you to move HB 2177 forward.

Robin Wisdom
President

Kappy Eaton
Governance Coordinator