



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF OREGON

February 16, 2015

House Committee on Rules  
Representative Val Hoyle, Chair  
[zoe.larmer@state.or.us](mailto:zoe.larmer@state.or.us)

Re: HB 2178 Contributions Disclosure - SUPPORT

The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a non-partisan political organization that encourages and educates citizens to participate in government at all levels. HB 2178 provides another piece in the Oregon election system for transparency and disclosure of financial contributions to candidates for public office. Since the state has no dollar limits in giving money to candidates, giving access to the public about late donors is essential.

The League recognizes that election procedures and information are critical elements to an informed and participating electorate. The state has an obligation to provide voters with accurate information so that they can make reasoned choices. The ORESTAR system makes tracking financial contributions and expenditures readily available, but the current disclosure of large contributions late in the campaign is not sufficient. Requiring notification within 48 hours of significant monetary donations makes the reporting system more accountable as well as transparent. This is particularly important during the last few weeks prior to an election.

The League supports measures to improve methods of financing political campaigns in order to ensure the public's right to know, combat corruption and undue influence, as well as to enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office and promote citizen participation in the political process. HB 2178 is another tool in the efforts to make elections fair and to call attention to the increasing problem of money in politics.

The League strongly supports moving HB 2178 to the House floor with a "do pass" recommendation.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak.

Robin Wisdom  
President

Kappy Eaton  
Governance Coordinator