



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF OREGON

February 25, 2015

House Judiciary Committee
Representative Jeff Barker, Chair
Representative Andy Olson, Vice Chair
Representative Jennifer Williamson, Vice-Chair
mike.reiley@state.or.us

Representative Barker and Committee Members:

Re: HB 2338 – Modify Judicial salaries – Support

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, grassroots political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. The League has a position on Oregon State Courts that affirms the separation of powers and the treatment of the Oregon Judicial Department, the third branch of our state government, as a separate, independent, co-equal branch of state government.

The Oregon Judicial Department Budget request from the Chief Justice supports judge and staff compensation and benefit adjustments and increases resource levels to improve timely services to the public and increase access to justice. The salary levels for judges should be sufficient to attract and retain lawyers for these judicial positions. The increases in salaries could be scheduled for future biennia to provide predictability and security, although the budget commitments can only be funded for two years ahead.

The decisions of state court judges are critical for the functioning of the public safety system as well as family, probate and business matters. The salary levels are a reflection of the value of the judge's service to society. For that reason, we support the request for salary increases in this biennium.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

Handwritten signature of Robin Wisdom in black ink.

Robin Wisdom
President LWVOR

Handwritten signature of Karen Nibler in black ink.

Karen Nibler
Social Policy Coordinator