



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF OREGON**

To: April 27, 2015

To: House Committee on Rules  
Representative Val Hoyle, Chair  
hrules.exhibits@state.or.us

RE: Ethics Laws Revisions - COMMENTS

The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a non-partisan, political organization that educates citizens and encourages informed citizen participation in government. The League has a long-standing position in support of the public's right to know. Our stance broadly includes access to public records with one important exemption. The information of individuals needed for voter registration should remain private, as in current law.

The League is reviewing the various proposals for changes to Oregon's ethic laws and offers these comments on issues of importance to the public:

- HB 3505 provides retention schedules for public records. We believe retention schedules are necessary. The proposal also deals with legislative, social and electronic media, sets fees and consequences for disclosure violations. These also are of public concern.
- HB 3043 refers to the policies related to a Governor's First Spouse. We suggest a more generic term such as the First Partner that is suggested in Governor Brown's ethics proposals.
- We urge the committee to consider the proposals before you today, alongside the Governor's proposals, found in HBs 2019 and 2020, to find common ground.

Oregonians are entitled to know what their various government entities are collecting and keeping, along with other records which impact the public. Exemptions should be carefully enacted, reviewed regularly and narrowed. While certain improvements can be enacted this session, the League recommends serious consideration of the larger context of public records, which are inconsistent in many circumstances. Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Robin Wisdom  
President

Kappy Eaton  
Governance Coordinator