



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF OREGON

May 13, 2015

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

RE: SB 9 - Public Records - SUPPORT

The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a non-partisan, political organization which educates citizens and encourages informed citizen participation in government. Public trust of government at all levels is dependent upon transparency and strong support for the public's right to know. The League supports SB 9 which requires a performance audit of Oregon's state agency public records retention and disclosure practices.

This legislation provides for a full-scale examination of the current public records system which is full of exemptions, retention problems and unreasonable delays in requested access to information. SB 9 is very specific as to how the performance audit should take place and details the specific areas which are to be reviewed. Best practices, technology and the ability of the Secretary of State to follow the progress in serving those who make records requests are particularly well included. The League commends the precision and complete coverage for the needed public records reform laid out in SB 9. Passage by the Senate was unanimous; and we strongly request the committee to move it to the full House for adoption. Thank you for this opportunity to provide this testimony.

Robin Wisdom
President

Kappy Eaton
Governance Coordinator