



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF OREGON**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a 97-year-old grassroots nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. We envision informed Oregonians participating in a fully accessible, responsive, and transparent government to achieve the common good. LWVOR Legislative Action is based on advocacy positions formed through studies and member consensus. The League never supports or opposes any candidate or political party.

February 27, 2017

To: House Committee on Rules
Rep. Jennifer Williamson, Chair

Re: [HB 2578](#) – Establishes Small Donor Funded Elections program – **Support**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon (LWVOR) and nationally (LWVUS) have supported small donor financing of elections with their studies and advocacy positions since the 1970s.

The Small Donor Elections program will allow everyday people to participate in our elections and government without the fear that their campaign contributions will be overwhelmed by the power of big money.

The Small Donor Elections program will also diversify candidate participation. It breaks down the barriers that money creates for those running for office so that candidates can reflect the geographic, racial, gender, and economic diversity of Oregon.

While the LWVOR supports HB 2578 as it is, we would prefer that this measure be coupled with limits on campaign contributions, which would give candidates an incentive to join the small donor program. The [Task Force on Campaign Finance Reform](#) has recommended such contribution limits in [HJR 5](#). The LWVOR is still hopeful that the other recommendations in the Task Force's [report to the legislature](#) will also be acted on.

As demonstrated by Vote-by-Mail and Motor Voter, Oregon has always been a leader in creating a strong democracy. Small donor funded elections will continue Oregon's leadership.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

Handwritten signature of Norman Turrill in black ink.

Norman Turrill
LWVOR President & Campaign Finance Portfolio

Handwritten signature of Rebecca Gladstone in black ink.

Rebecca Gladstone
Governance Policy Coordinator