



Date: March 22, 2017
To: Oregon House Committee on Rules
From: Oregon League of Conservation Voters
Re: Support for HB 2873

Chair Williamson and Members of the Committee,

We write in support of HB 2873 to increase transparency and access to the electoral process. Many important decisions are made at the local level yet information about local measures are usually not easily and readily accessible to voters and groups. Voters and organizations like us need to know as early as we can about a bond or levy to learn about it, discuss it in the community, and determine if we want to work to support or oppose it.

The Oregon League of Conservation Voters' mission is to pass laws that protect Oregon's environmental legacy, elect pro-environment candidates to office, and hold all our elected officials accountable. Any local or statewide group that has a mission like ours that seeks to weigh in on political measures, no matter what side of an issue they are on, need centralized access to information in order to actively participate in the process.

Right now, there is no centralized place for Oregonians to find information about local measures like bonds and levies. Local bonds and levies happen at different times throughout the year. The elections for these measures can often happen when there is very low voter turnout and participation. Moreover, every locality has a different timeline which makes it very difficult for community members and organizations with missions relevant to bonds and levies to track and adequately participate in this democratic process.

It's nearly impossible for individuals and advocates to know what is happening across the state in a timely manner because we must check every single county website and call them regularly to catch everything and it is often very close to the election date and then too late to way in and engage citizens who may care.

Statewide reporting would allow every Oregonian and every group to learn of every measure in one place and have better access statewide for everyone to weigh in on measures. Please support HB 2873 and require that bonds and levies be filed with Orestar to take a small step towards increased transparency.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Paige Spence
Oregon Conservation Network Director
Oregon League of Conservation Voters