



**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 8, 2018

To: House Judiciary Committee  
Representative Jeff Barker, Chair  
Representative Andy Olson, Vice-Chair  
Representative Jennifer Williamson, Vice-Chair

Re: **HB 4096** – Oregon Judicial Department – **Support**

The LWV of Oregon 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 Chief Justice has requested an increase in annual salaries for the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, Tax Court and district court judges from this biennium with subsequent increases on July 1, 2018 and January 1 of 2019 and 2020. The increase of salaries over an extended time might be the most feasible in this budget restricted time.

The League understands the importance of increasing judicial salaries in order to attract new judges and to compensate current judges for their work. Judges' schedules are not regular office hours but are extended to cover the workload. The decisions often require deliberations and careful construction of findings.

The courts are a critical piece of our public safety system as offenders are sent to jails, treatment programs, specialized housing, hospitals, or correctional facilities. The court decisions impact the populations of these facilities and utilization of other resources. The staff salaries should reflect the importance of this pivotal role.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Norman Turrill".

Norman Turrill  
LWVOR President

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen Nibler".

Karen Nibler  
LWVOR Social Policy Coordinator