



*The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a 100-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.*

December 16, 2020

To: **House Interim Committee on Rules**  
**HRULES.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov**

Re: **Necessary elements of effective campaign finance reform – Comment**

The League of Women Voters first studied campaign finance in 1973 and has advocated for our strong positions on the subject ever since.

This morning you have heard testimony about the various values and components of campaign finance reform. In this message we hope to summarize all the elements of CFR that are required for a stable and effective set of laws. If any one of these elements is missing or flawed, then the system of CFR laws, regulations and enforcement may work for a while, but will ultimately be unstable:

- Limit aggregate contributions from and to every active political entity—low enough to prevent the appearance of undue influence, yet high enough to provide sufficient funds for thorough voter education.
- Establish a strong and transparent online public campaign finance disclosure system. A 2015 Task Force found ORESTAR (now outdated) difficult to navigate and lacking transparency.
- Require strong “paid-for” disclosures on all political advertising of the top real original contributors to the ads.
- Require disclosure of the real original sources of all campaign “dark money” contributions.
- Require strong and rapid disclosure of all independent expenditures with much stronger rules against coordination with candidate campaigns. Otherwise, candidates may lose control of campaign messaging.
- Establish a system of public matching of small individual campaign contributions to candidates. This system must provide sufficient funding to deter possible self-funded candidates and independent expenditures.
- Require strong enforcement rules and penalties administered by a strong independent nonpartisan agency.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca L. Gladstone".

Rebecca Gladstone  
LWVOR President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Norman Turrill".

Norman Turrill  
LWVOR Governance Coordinator