



The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a 99-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.

March 13, 2019

To: [House Committee on Rules](#)
Representative Paul Holvey, Chair

Email: hrules.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

Re: [HB 2983](#) – Disclosure of “dark money” organizations intending to influence Oregon elections – **Support**

The League of Women Voters, both nationally and at the state level, has been working for comprehensive campaign finance reform since the 1970s.

Oregon requires disclosure of campaign contributions and expenditures but has no limits on them. Since Oregon is one of only a few states that does not limit campaign contributions or spending, except by requiring disclosure, we whole heartedly support the deep disclosures that would be required by HB 2983.

If Oregon implements some form of campaign contribution limits, this would motivate increased independent expenditures, as happened in the 1996 Oregon election, the last and only time when campaign contribution limits were used. Such expenditures are often used for “hit piece” advertisements and negative campaigning. A candidate could lose control of his/her campaign message.

HB 2983 could inhibit sources of money used for independent expenditures, because such sources usually do not want to be disclosed; they want to remain “dark” and anonymous.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

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

Norman Turrill
LWVOR President and Campaign Finance Portfolio

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

Becky Gladstone
LWVOR Governance Coordinator