



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.

April 10, 2019

To: [House Committee on Revenue](#)
Chair Representative Nancy Nathanson
Vice-Chair Representative Lynn Findley
Vice-Chair Representative Pam Marsh
[hrev exhibit email](#)

Re: [HB 2123](#) [HB 2158](#) [HB 2159](#) [HB 2169](#) [HB 2270](#) – Taxing tobacco and vaping products – **Support**

Strokes, heart attacks, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and lung cancer kill thousands of people each year.

The League of Women Voters of Oregon has a studied Position supporting the prevention of disease. Reducing smoking is one of the most effective public health measures we can take to reduce disease. We are cheered that cigarette smoking is declining among teenagers, but dismayed that vaping is on the rise, addicting a new generation to nicotine. Teenagers are especially sensitive to cigarette price changes, but even some older smokers quit or smoke less in response to price hikes.

So as a public health measure, we [support](#) raising taxes on cigarettes, removing the per cigar limit on the cigar tax, and taxing vaping products, both delivery systems and the inhalant-form nicotine, as this group of bills would do.

In addition, these bills would raise considerable revenue. We support HB 2270’s proposal to send the increase in cigarette tax revenue to the Oregon Health Authority.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

Norman Turrill
LWVOR President

Karen Nibler
LWVOR Social Policy Chair

Maud Naroll
LWVOR Revenue Co-Chair