



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.

February 10, 2020

To: [Senate Committee on General Government and Emergency Preparedness](#)
[Senator Chuck Riley](#), Chair

Re: [SB 1506](#) – Office of the Public Records Advocate – **Support**

LWVUS Principles state, “We must promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive.” The League of Women Voters also believes that democratic government depends upon the informed and active participation of its citizens and requires that governmental bodies protect the citizen’s right to know.

The League welcomed the opportunity in 2017 to support SB 106 that created the Public Records Advocate and Advisory Council. However, it is not surprising that in creating the office and an advisory council that the legislature would need to more clearly define the independence of the Advocate position as well as the authority and responsibilities of the Advisory Council.

We feel that this is best accomplished by an independent entity that is committed to government transparency that is free from political pressure and influence. Recent events last year make it imperative that the Public Records Advisory Council should be free to make its own recommendations directly to the legislature, and be free to do what they feel is in the best interest of the public in regards to transparency without restraint from other agencies or governmental bodies. We feel it is vital, therefore, that the Public Records Advisory Council should be the body to appoint the Public Records Advocate, who up to this date has also acted as the Chair of this body.

We urge your Support for SB 1506.

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