



The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a 101-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 9, 2021

To: [Senate Committee On Rules](#)
[Senate Majority Leader Rob Wagner](#), Chair

Re: [SB 336](#) – State campaign contribution limits – **Support and Comments**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon, using its national campaign finance Position, has for decades advocated for comprehensive campaign contribution limits to protect Oregon politics from the corrupting influence of huge special interest campaign donations.

With the passage of Measure 107 in November, with the largest number of Yes votes ever in Oregon history for a statewide ballot measure, the legislature must now follow through with statute(s) that implement the voters' will. [SB 336](#) together with [HB 2680](#) and [HB 3343](#) could be the vehicle for accomplishing this goal.

So that we have a stable, balanced campaign finance system, other bills that should be considered in this process are [HB 2921](#) on small donor elections, [HB 3235](#) limiting foreign nationals from making campaign contributions, limits on “dark money”, coordination rules on independent expenditures, and additional requirements on political ads to disclose the real source of moneys paying for the ads.

These proposed laws are exceedingly complex issues and every legislator has their own opinions on these subjects.

Concerning the details in SB 336, the League would offer the following comments:

- The contribution limits are a bit high. The limits in HB 3343 are better. The Brennan Center for Justice recently issued a [report on political science research](#) that shows “... lower contribution limits of \$500 or less for individual contributors and political action committees (PACs) made elections for state assembly more competitive.” Such lower limits would help racial and ethnic minorities and women run for office.
- Consider making small donor committees permanent and multi-candidate instead of limited to one candidate. You can then eliminate the multi-legislative candidate political committees. (Simpler is better!)
- No entity that makes or accepts contributions should be unlimited. Unlimited entities become loopholes for the flow of money through the campaign finance system.

We urge your Support for SB 336 with the above considerations.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

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Cc: [Sen. Jeff Golden](#), [Rep. Dan Rayfield](#), [Rep. Andrea Salinas](#)