



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 11, 2021

To: [Representative Barbara Smith Warner](#), Chair
[House Committee on Rules](#)

Re: [HB 2681](#) – annual county clerk inactive voter registration reports – **Support**

HB 2681 limits inactivating voter registrations, or, more clearly, helps more voters to keep voting. The League supports promoting access to voting and encouraging voter participation. The League supports efficiency in election operations, transparency and accessibility in registering to vote. Reinforcing our confidence in the validity of our voter rolls, reinforces an aspect of another League principle, that elections be verifiable.

Oregon is justly proud of our voters for turning out to vote! We all want reliable voter rolls. This bill would help to validate our voter rolls and support our county clerks work to help “cure” voters’ ballots, most often held for signature questions.

Voter rolls are being purged elsewhere around the country. This Oregon bill would extend the voter roll *retentions* that SoS Richardson made, which we supported. Whether from not voting or not updating voter registration information, under this bill, voter registration could not be ruled inactive for any period of time. We note similarities with the federal *For the People Act*, now SB 1, ensuring that a voter cannot be removed from the rolls simply because they have not voted in an election. This act also requires that voters receive notice and can fix their registration before being removed.

Oregon voters could be ruled inactive if they don’t respond to “ballot curing” outreach from officials. “Curing” or fixing ballot problems is most often needed for forgetting to sign outside ballot envelopes or for signatures not matching those on file well enough, per ORS 254.431.

In the context of expansions and improvements to automatic voter registration bills anticipated this session, now is the time to review the OAR registration problem list and justify the codes used to move a voter to “inactive status”, for example a name change, undeliverable ballots when voters move, or death.

The League adds, to address the increasingly prevalent expectation for digital communications, that electronic communications be adopted, optionally, for expediency and efficiency in “curing” ballots and voter registrations.

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