



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.

Feb. 23, 2021

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

Re: [SB 463](#) – Establishes exception to gift limitation for food or beverage – **Oppose**

In 2007 the LWV of Oregon supported the extensive overhaul of the ethics laws, including limits on gifts to \$50.

SB 463 would add an exception from the definition of a gift in ORS 244.020 for any food or beverage consumed by a legislator or a candidate for the legislature at a meal or reception. ORS 244.025 already allows gifts to public officials in aggregate value of up to \$50, so why would we do this? This bill would effectively remove this limit and allow lobbyists and special interest groups to resume “wining and dining” of legislators or candidates for the legislature. It may be time to index the \$50 gift limit to inflation, but we think it unwise to remove this limit altogether.

We urge your opposition to SB 463.

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