

The League of Women Voters of Oregon, established in 1920, is a 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.

DATE: June 20, 2023

To: Senator Lieber, Chair and members of the Senate Rules Committee

Re: <u>HB 2107 A</u>– Extend automatic voter registration to OHA – **Support**

The League supports HB 2107 to extend automatic voter registration beyond "Motor Voter", by connecting relevant data records from the Oregon Health Authority to the Oregon Elections Division.

The League maintains that democratic governments depend on informed and active citizens' participation. We **also** support government efficiency, for accessible, well publicized, easily understood voter registration that is efficient to administer. The League consistently urges for funding necessary technical staff and basic services, including for voting.

Agencies sharing data we've already provided saves time, energy, and taxpayer cost. This cuts red tape for a "no-wrong-door" for our public services, so OHA can share relevant information.

Oregonians increasingly expect government services to keep up with today's efficient, and prompt digital transactions. ORS 247.208 calls for the SoS to find barriers and research opportunities to ensure accuracy, security and efficiency of voter registration processes, to find ways to improve using current technology, at least once each biennium. See the SoS Motor Voter FAQ page.

Others look to Oregon as a national leader because we prioritize common-sense solutions like Automatic Voter Registration. Oregon already leads the nation in voter turnout; now we need to increase both registration and turnout. Enactment of this legislation also carries responsibilities for those of us already engaged in election participation. It is essential that we encourage the newly registered to learn about issues and candidates and to cast their votes.

We urge your Support for HB 2107 A. Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

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