



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.

February 7th, 2023

To: [Representative Kropf](#), Chair
[House Judiciary Committee](#)

Re: [HB 2224](#) – Increase juror fees and mileage, reflect cost of living – **Support**

League advocacy is based on our studied and agreed positions. We address a fundamental point here that, if neglected, could undermine our judicial system’s ability to provide fair trials: *boost jury member pay so it imposes less of a discriminating hardship*. We support HB 2224, to raise jurors’ daily pay, with periodic consumer price index adjustments, and link the mileage rate to federal standards.

Consider these clarifying points:

- **Citizen’s Right to Know/Public Participation:** Protect the citizen’s right to know and facilitate informed understanding and public participation in government decision-making. Recognizing the need for effective citizen participation, the LWVOR believes the following factors should be considered...: Representation on a broad socioeconomic, geographic and occupational basis.
- **Provide essential support services:**
[FOR THE JURY](#) (JURY SERVICE, US COURTS): Jury duty is **one of the most important civic duties**. The protection of rights and liberties...is largely achieved through teamwork of judge and jury.
[FOR THE DEFENDANT](#) (JURY DUTY, OREGON JUDICIAL BRANCH): A, Constitution. Congress. Gov person who is entitled to a jury trial is entitled to a jury that represents the full community. It is important that a fair cross-section of community be represented on the jury to prevent discrimination, including discrimination based on race, religion, sex, national origin, age or economic status.
- **Individual Liberties: Oppose major threats to basic constitutional rights:**
[CONSTITUTION ANNOTATED](#), (CONSTITUTION.CONGRESS.GOV), tersely:
Sixth Amendment, right to a trial by an impartial jury of peers.
Fourteenth Amendment, equal protection under the law.

The League prioritizes using a DEI lens with our work, for diversity, equity, and inclusion. Jury duty can currently impose an economic hardship disproportionately, especially when seen through this lens. HB 2224 adjustments would help: raise **daily** reimbursement from \$10 to \$50, and from \$25 to \$60 after two days. Mileage reimbursement, now in statute at 8 cents a mile, would go to \$0.625.

For efficiency in government, we support the bill’s linking these rates to the cost-of-living increases.

We urge your support for HB 2224. Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

Rebecca Gladstone
President LWVOR