



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 7, 2023

To: [Senator Kate Lieber, Chair](#)
[Senate Rules Committee](#)

Re: [SB 510](#) – PRAC and Advocate costs, rules, and assessments – **Support**

The League supports SB 510 for the Oregon Public Records Advocate to estimate Advisory Council costs, develop a budget, and allocate assessments to state agencies for their costs, developing rules to do so, directly via the state Treasury. This builds on our support below.

LWVUS Principles state, “We must promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive.” The League of Women Voters also believes that democratic government depends on informed and active participation of its citizens and requires that governmental bodies protect the citizen’s right to know.

In 2017, the League welcomed creating the Public Records Advocate and Advisory Council. See [our testimony](#): SB 106 Enrolled. It was clear that the legislature would need to clarify independence for the Advocate position and the Advisory Council authority and responsibilities. By 2020, we felt this would be best accomplished by an independent entity committed to government transparency, free from political pressure and influence, as we noted for [SB 1506](#).

SB 510 now moves the funding process from general fund transactions to sustainable dedicated assessments, with cost estimates forecast and budgeted, then billed to state agencies, via the Treasury. Providing and administering these services centrally should be more efficient.

We urge your Support for SB 510. Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca L. Gladstone". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Rebecca Gladstone
President LWVOR