



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.

March 9, 2023

To: Senator Patterson and Representative Greg Smith, Co-Chairs, and committee members

Joint Subcommittee On General Government

Re: **SB 5032** – PRAC and Advocate budget bill – **Support**

The League supports HB 5032 to provide funding for SB 510, which we also support. SB 510 applies to the Oregon Public Records Advisory Council (PRAC) and Advocate. Now we call on the Legislature to continue this funding as recommended in the governor’s proposed budget, for both the Advocate and the Oregon Public Records Advisory Council.

LWVUS Principles state, “We must promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive.” LWVUS also believes that democratic government depends on informed and active citizen participation. It requires that governmental bodies protect the citizen’s right to know. Our [privacy and cybersecurity positions](#) call for balancing privacy and transparency.

Recent newsworthy campaigns to place intentionally harmful, excessive records requests underscore the increased importance of supporting PRAC oversight for public records request management. This program’s value builds on the most comprehensive Oregon public records reform in some 30 years, from the 2017 Legislature. The League advocated for each of these, including through the -14 for HB 2101.

- [SB 481 Enrolled](#) (2017) Public Records Access Policy
- [SB 106 Enrolled](#) (2017) Creation of the Public Records Advisory Council and Advocate See [our testimony](#). It was clear 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 in 2020, for [SB 1506](#).
- [HB 2101 Enrolled](#) (2017) Review of Public Records Disclosure Exemptions The League worked with a 1993 legislative task force, trying to organize the then 20-year old statute to codify 3,450 exemptions. By 2017, some 550 exemptions remained. That has now grown to over 600.

We urge your HB 5032 support for funding to continue this important work.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

Handwritten signature of Rebecca Gladstone in black ink.

Rebecca Gladstone
President LWVOR

Handwritten signature of Norman Turrill in black ink.

Norman Turrill
Governance Coordinator