



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 13, 2024

To: Senator Manning, Chair, and committee members
[Senate Committee On Veterans, Emergency Management, Federal and World Affairs](#)

Re: [SB 1577](#) – Automatic voter registration (AVR) for some Oregon students – **COMMENTS**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon is commenting on SB 1577. This bill would extend Oregon’s automatic voter registration (AVR) to eligible students applying to enroll in Oregon’s higher ed public institutions. The bill calls for the Oregon Dept of Revenue to forward relevant registration data to the Oregon Elections Division, for those students who are applying *and* who are eligible to vote. Specific process implementation steps need to be identified and feasibility should be confirmed.

The League encourages and protects voting as a fundamental citizen’s right. Democratic government depends on informed and active citizens’ participation. Oregonians expect government efficiency, with prompt digital transactions. Sharing data between Oregon’s public services could efficiently and securely cut red tape for “no-wrong-door”, saving time, labor, and taxpayer cost. Since 2013, LWVUS has promoted **secure online voter registration, permanent and portable statewide voter registration, and electronic election process streamlining.** LWVOR [privacy and cybersecurity positions](#) have **extensive election and personal data protections.**

The Data Trail This process would collect and transfer student “college” application data to voter registrations, through County Elections offices. It is not clear what entity(s) would fit in the middle. Laying the “data trail” efficiently, assuring privacy, needs collaboration, preparation, staff allocation and training, and funding. The qualifying eligibility data would include citizenship status, maintaining noncitizen privacy, and only forwarding data for students who are citizens.

AVR development LWVOR has worked on automating Oregon’s voter registration since 1981, to promote efficient and economical coordination among levels and government agencies. Oregon’s common sense “Motor Voter” led nationally ([HB 2177](#) (2015), [LWVOR testimony](#)) with ODOT changing voter registration from opt-in to opt-out, linked to issuing drivers’ licenses. The intention was to expand and in 2023, [HB 2107](#), [LWVOR testimony](#), added some Oregon Health Authority (OHA) access. It awaits data sharing guidance & approval. This must attend to details. The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services operative date is set for June 1, 2026.

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
Co-President, Co-Chair - Advocacy, Elections Portfolio, LWVOR