

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.

Feb 2, 2026

To: **Chair Representative Nancy Nathanson, House Committee On Revenue**

Re: **HB 4125 – Tax Estimating and the Emergency Fund – Support**

The LWVOR believes a tax system should be “*equitable, adequate, stable, easy to administer and as simple as possible*” and “*be flexible enough to adjust to social and economic changes (e.g., population shifts, development of new industry, demands for more services and changes in business cycles)*.”

HB 4125 is a creative and carefully crafted bill that will help reduce the fluctuations in “kicker” tax revenue refunds as a result of past underestimated revenue forecasts. **This bill does not alter the kicker law itself, but is intended to improve the accuracy of Oregon’s revenue forecasts.**

Although we have new methodologies and forecasters in place in recent years, this bill will help to ensure that overestimates are minimized by specifying that the lower end of generally accepted range of revenue estimates be used from nationally recognized data vendors and based on the last 10 years of Oregon revenue receipts. It requires that the last revenue forecast before long session adjournment be used using the greatest positive deviation between actual and forecasted revenue of the previous five biennia. The Department of Revenue would then transfer an equal amount from these positive projections for personal income tax collections into a new “One-time Emergencies and Finance Fund.” The Fund can only be used for reducing PERS (Public Employees Retirement System) liability, costs for capital projects (to avoid issuing revenue bonds), debt service and expenses related to emergencies (such as those caused by climate disasters). The Department of Administrative Services would distribute these funds as needed.

Year after year, we have seen emergency sessions devoted to scrambling to find funding **after** we face a big emergency such as for wildfire or PERS shortfalls, wasting Legislator time and effort. This sensible bill sets aside revenue for these purposes **before** disaster strikes. The rest is returned to taxpayers in kicker credits. It’s like a budget savings account for the legislature to use for one-time emergencies only, outside of budgeted expenses.

We think all legislators should be able to see the wisdom of this approach and we urge you to pass **HB 4025**. Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.



Barbara Klein
LWVOR President



Josie Koehne
Revenue Portfolio

Cc: **Representative Gamba, Senator Pham, Neron Misslin, Representative Munoz, Nosse, Rieke Smith, Senator Golden**