



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF OREGON**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a 97-year-old 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 21, 2017

To: Representative Margaret Doherty, Chair  
House Committee on Education

Re: [HB 2219](#) and [HB 2691](#) re Civics Education, **Comment**

We appreciate that both Democrat and Republican sponsors see value in Civics Education.

The League of Women Voters has supported Civics Education for many decades and has provided free classroom materials for [voluntary Civics Education and Mock Elections across the state](#). We acknowledge that both these bills allow broad latitude without imposing harsh mandatory graduation requirements. Additionally, we know that with the looming deficit for funding existing education and safety net social services this biennium, now is not the time to impose additional expenses or requirements on individual school districts, the state Department of Education, or individual students.

We commend *voluntary efforts* of school districts to offer opportunities for civics education. We acknowledge that [Oregon Department of Education for Oregon Social Sciences Academic Content Standards](#) has already developed core standards and grade level standards in kindergarten through high school in civics education. Therefore, we do not see the need for either of these bills. The intent is already being met.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

Handwritten signature of Norman Turrill in black ink.

Norman Turrill  
LWVOR President

Handwritten signature of Christine M. Vogel in black ink.

Chris Vogel  
LWVOR Education Policy Coordinator