



**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.

March 21, 2017

To: House Committee on Rules
Rep. Jennifer Williamson, Chair

Re: [HB 2584](#) – Independent expenditures and coordination of campaign expenditures – **Support**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon (LWVOR) and nationally (LWVUS) have supported disclosure of campaign financing of elections with their studies and advocacy positions since the 1970s.

HB 2584 is an important proposal to help discourage Dark Money independent expenditures in Oregon elections. It carefully defines situations where campaign expenditures are coordinated with a campaign and, therefore, are not independent expenditures and must be reported as in-kind contributions to a campaign. HB 2584 further tightens when independent expenditures must be reported in ORSTAR and increases penalties for non-compliance. HB 2584 then adds important tools for the Secretary of State or the Attorney General to use in investigations and audits of campaign committee accounts.

These are complicated features of Oregon's public disclosure law with much detail. It is safe to say that there is no one way to implement these ideas, so we could have much discussion around each feature. As written, it is a good bill, and we urge the committee to pass it out.

While all of HB 2584 is needed now, if Oregon had contribution limits as recommended by the [Task Force on Campaign Finance Reform](#) in its proposed [HJR 5](#), then HB 2584 would be even more important as a method for Oregon to discourage Dark Money independent expenditures that try to evade the contribution limits.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

Handwritten signature of Norman Turrill in black ink.

Norman Turrill
LWVOR President & Campaign Finance Portfolio

Handwritten signature of Rebecca L. Gladstone in black ink.

Rebecca Gladstone
Governance Policy Coordinator