



**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 1, 2017

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

Re: [HB 2702](#) – Campaign advertisement disclaimers – **Support**

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

HB 2702 would establish disclaimer requirements for campaign ads in Oregon. It requires that ads explicitly state whether they were approved and authorized or not by a candidate in the race.

Oregon is one of only four remaining states that does not have disclaimer requirements on campaign ads for state and local offices. Without such disclaimers, it is easier to anonymously attack a candidate, and voters are prevented from knowing who is attempting to influence their vote. It also becomes more difficult for candidates to control the messaging of their own campaigns.

Candidates for federal office in Oregon already have to follow disclaimer requirements, and many candidates for the legislature already put disclaimers on their ads. But some candidates and groups refuse to be accountable for their ads. HB 2702 eliminates a loophole in our laws, and makes sure that everyone follows the same rules.

The [Task Force on Campaign Finance Reform](#) in its [report to the legislature](#) *unanimously* recommended that the legislature should develop constitutional options for disclaimer requirements.

Furthermore, if Oregon had contribution limits as recommended by the [Task Force on Campaign Finance Reform](#) in its proposed [HJR 5](#), then disclaimers on campaign advertisements would be an important 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.

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