March 13, 2017

To: House Committee on Rules
   Chair Williamson

Re: House Bill 2948 - Allows those at least 16 years old to register to vote – SUPPORT

The League consistently supports improving access to voting. One of our priority positions this session is protecting democracy, by promoting more representative elections systems. This bill would improve voting access for Oregonians.

Our support of this bill reiterates our support of Senate Bill 802. They both affect the Oregon “Motor Voter” interface. When 16-year-olds go to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to initiate driving tests, permitting and licensing, they could efficiently pre-register to vote with the same visit.

They may not need to return to the DMV until their new drivers’ licenses are up for renewal, which could be a lapse of almost a decade. As Oregon’s registration procedures stand, these youth may not initiate the Oregon “Motor Voter” voter registration sequence until several election cycles have elapsed. This bill could also allow sixteen year olds to register without a DMV transaction. While this bill would allow those who are sixteen to register to vote, the voting age remains 18.

We want voter registration to be as efficient, economical, and thorough as possible. We urge your SUPPORT of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

Norman Turrill
LWVOR President

Rebecca Gladstone
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