



The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a 99-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 11, 2019

To: [Senate Committee on Rules](#)
[Senator Ginny Burdick, Chair](#)

Re: **SB 224** – Multiple elections statute fixes – **Comments**

The League of Women Voters has long supported making voting accessible and ensuring that our elections represent all voters and are efficient and secure. We support this bill's updates of Oregon's elections processes, which clarify definitions and improve consistent application of rules, some in ways that seem like correcting scribes' errors.

- **Voter roll review, Section 1.** This is consistent with earlier statute revisions.
- **Improve ballot accessibility to our military and other overseas voters, Sections 2 and 3.** We support vote by mail, with rules updated and administered through our Elections Division that allow contemporary and secure ballot delivery options, including for special elections.
- **IRRs, or Initiative, Referendum, and Recall petitions, Sections 5-8.** We support consistent treatment of political committees and corporations that support or oppose petitions during the signature gathering period.
- **Precinct Committee Person gender language, Section 9.** The League believes that governments at all levels share the responsibility to provide equality for all persons regardless of race, color, gender, religion, national origin, age, sexual orientation or disability. The current statute requires that candidates for Committeeperson run by gender; a requirement that creates a barrier for those individuals that do not identify as either male or female. In addition to legal questions that have been raised, it is the understanding of the League of Women Voters that officials of both the Democratic and Republican parties agreed that it is not their desire to exclude individual candidates on the basis of gender identification. They are in support of removing the gender requirement in statute, understanding that they will need to employ internal party rules to continue to move forward in assuring that women serve in equal numbers within party leadership.
- **Voter roll delivery to political parties, Section 10.** The League supports government efficiency and lauds making this a central state access point with uniform oversight for both transparency and privacy.
- **Electioneering ban, within 100 feet of election offices, Section 19.** This ban should be retained.
- **Nominating petition signature distribution, Sections 21 through 23.** Ideally, this requirement for statewide candidate petition signatures addresses our need to bridge Oregon's rural-urban divide, changing from petitions representing seven counties to representing each congressional district.
- **We are not speaking to political party rules, Section 27.**

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation. We urge your support.

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