



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.

March 13, 2019

To: [Senate Committee on Campaign Finance](#)
Senator Jeff Golden, Chair
[House Committee on Rules](#)
Representative Paul Holvey, Chair

Email: scamp.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov, hrules.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

Re: [HJR 13](#), [SJR 18](#) – Constitutional amendments allowing campaign contribution limits –
Support

The League of Women Voters, both nationally and at the state level, has been working for comprehensive campaign finance reform since the 1970s.

Oregon requires disclosure of campaign contributions and expenditures, but has no limits on them. Since Oregon is one of only a few states that does not limit campaign contributions or spending, except by requiring disclosure, we whole heartedly support either of these constitutional amendments. We would prefer HJR 13, since it is more comprehensive, for example allowing such laws at the city, county, municipality or district level, and also allowing laws to require disclosures in advertisements.

A constitutional amendment is only a necessary enabling piece of an effective campaign finance system. The other necessary pieces that the League supports are at least:

- Implementing legislation for the detailed campaign contribution limits.
- Some form of campaign financing limit, such as the Small Donor System in [HB 3004](#), which would also implement voluntary spending limits for some candidates. It would also enable candidates to quickly raise money to counteract malicious independent expenditures.
- Some form of tightened rules addressing coordination of spending between campaigns and independent expenditures such as in [HB 2709](#).
- Some form of extensive disclosure of “dark money” organizations intending to influence Oregon elections, right down to the original donor(s), such as in [HB 2983](#).
- Implementing legislation for disclosures in campaign advertisements such as in [HB 2716](#).

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

Handwritten signature of Norman Turrill in black ink.

Norman Turrill
LWVOR President and Campaign Finance Portfolio

Handwritten signature of Becky Gladstone in black ink.

Becky Gladstone
LWVOR Governance Coordinator