



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 14, 2019

To: [Joint Committee On Information Management and Technology](#)
Co-Chairs, [Senator Chuck Riley](#) and [Representative Nancy Nathanson](#)

Re: **SB 2906 (2017) – Funding for navigatOR geospatial data sharing program – Support**

The League of Women Voters supports efficiency and transparency in government and citizen access to information. We strongly recommend adoption, implementation, and funding of the navigatOR program proposed by the Oregon Geographic Information Council (OGEC). Benefits of navigatOR will affect all programs that the League works on since geospatial data is involved in all of them.

We have researched Oregon’s geospatial data because of the difficulty representing candidate information. We think it should be easier to reach our elected officials and our candidates. We use geospatial framework data for our Voters’ Guides and Voter Services websites, both for elections and for incumbent data. Using our elections website, you can see who will be on your ballot and what your ballot measures will be. For the 2018 general election, we covered 1,063 races and 1,610 candidates around Oregon. We have amassed information on more than 7,100 incumbent offices.

We list candidate websites, social media, photos, a statement, and for many races, we pose League-juried questions related to the many local races, *indexed by voting districts*. Geospatial information has been inconsistent and in incompatible formats. Shared regions are complicated and for some, we use a best approximation. Community College districts, for example, didn’t seem to be defined. This is very difficult because there is no central filing for all Oregon candidates, so we contact County Clerks, City Recorders, and Special Districts, to find candidate filings.

Before the 2014 election, the Oregon Association of County Clerks (OACC) Executive Committee asked for our help getting Special Districts’ candidate filings. **The effective GIS coordination provided by navigatOR could make this easier.**

We were stunned by the annual expenditure for reconciling incompatible file formats and other fixes that could be largely averted by standardizing file formats and coordinating information. From the 2005-2006 [Business Case for the Development of a Statewide GIS Utility](#):

“Staff efficiency/productivity increases which, when measured in monetary terms, can result in annual savings of more than \$80 million for state agencies and at least \$100 million for city and county governments throughout the state when the GIS Utility is fully deployed •.” P. 1-2.

We urge your support of this comprehensive effort.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

Norman Turrill
LWVOR President

Rebecca Gladstone
LWVOR Governance Coordinator