



*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.*

May 22, 2019

To: House Committee on Rules  
Representative Paul Holvey, Chair

Re: **HB 2714-3** – Campaign contribution limits – **Support**

Members of the League of Women Voters first studied campaign finance in 1973 and have advocated for our strong positions on the subject ever since.

The -3 amendments have not yet been posted to OLIS and, according to news reports, will soon be updated again. However, it is clear that this gut-and-stuff bill is moving in the right direction and that the League can be supportive, if not entirely enthusiastic. We, however, have some concerns.

The proposed contribution limits (\$1000, \$1500, and \$2800) seem about right. It is important to not make these limits too low so that political money is forced into independent expenditures. It is also important that challenging candidates have enough money to educate voters on their positions and biographies. Otherwise, incumbents will have an enormous advantage.

We tend to agree with Dan Meek on other issues. Too many (37) political party committees are allowed to make large contributions to candidates; they should be limited to the one state party committee. Furthermore, these committees are allowed to receive unlimited contributions from some sources, which appears to allow for money laundering.

Too many caucus political committees are allowed to make large contributions to candidates, since the definition does not definitely limit the number to one per party per chamber of the legislature. Furthermore, these committees are allowed to receive unlimited contributions from some sources, which appears to allow for money laundering.

Local governments should only be allowed to set contribution limits lower than the state limits.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Norman Turrill".

Norman Turrill  
LWVOR President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Becky Gladstone".

Rebecca Gladstone  
LWVOR Governance Coordinator