



The League of Women Voters of Oregon, established in 1920, is a 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 12, 2025

To: [Representative Bowman](#), Chair, [House Committee on Rules](#)

Re: [HB 3474](#) – SOS to study USPS changes that could affect Oregon vote-by-mail – **SUPPORT**

LWVOR supports HB 3474 directing the Secretary of State to study the federal government United States Postal Service changes that could affect Oregon’s vote-by-mail system. Our support would be contingent upon an accompanying provision for adequate study funding. Since 1987, the League has held a Position that states we “believe citizens are entitled to procedures that provide ease of ballot access and use and we support:

- Use of vote-by-mail in all elections. Make every effort to preserve ballot secrecy to prevent fraud.
- Permanently use absentee ballots, provided methods and timelines for counting them are improved, unless and until vote-by-mail is implemented in all elections; ...”

Recent USPS concerns have arisen:

- **COVID:** The LWVUS called on us to share Oregon’s vote-by-mail experience during the fast national vote-by-mail transition to accommodate safe distancing during COVID in 2019.
- **USPS service cutbacks:** In 2020, we reported on the removal of 27 USPS mailboxes in Eugene, 4 in Portland, with concurrent [mail sorting machines’ dismantling in Portland](#). The slowdown caused by moving all Oregon mail to Portland, then distributing back out around the state continues to be a point of contention, serving Oregon poorly. Oregon was the first full vote-by-mail (VBM) state, so that USPS cutback deeply concerns us.
- **Ballot Dropboxes:** LWVOR still encourages voters to save taxpayers the prepaid return mail postage cost by using the ballot dropboxes (when they can). We were dismayed by the [dropbox attacks in 2024](#), which seemed to have been from a single source.
- **Persistent ballot handling confusion?** See [Postmaster General](#) to SoS Clarno, July 31, 2020.

We remain committed to supporting vote-by-mail, valuing the processes established to date. We support a secure and efficient voting process, valuing our paper ballots. Evidence of reliable technology does not yet justify our support for a widespread transition to secure online voting. We would hope such a study would help to reinstate efficient and adequate USPS services in Oregon.

We urge your Support for HB 3474. Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

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