



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF OREGON**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a 97-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, 2017

To: [House Committee on Rules](#)  
[Chair Williamson](#)

Re: House Bill 2948 - Allows those at least 16 years old to register to vote – **SUPPORT**

The League consistently supports improving access to voting. One of our priority positions this session is protecting democracy, by promoting more representative elections systems. This bill would improve voting access for Oregonians.

Our support of this bill reiterates our support of Senate Bill 802. They both affect the Oregon “Motor Voter” interface. When 16-year-olds go to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to initiate driving tests, permitting and licensing, they could efficiently pre-register to vote with the same visit.

They may not need to return to the DMV until their new drivers’ licenses are up for renewal, which could be a lapse of almost a decade. As Oregon’s registration procedures stand, these youth may not initiate the Oregon “Motor Voter” voter registration sequence until several election cycles have elapsed. This bill could also allow sixteen year olds to register without a DMV transaction. While this bill would allow those who are sixteen to register to vote, the voting age remains 18.

We want voter registration to be as efficient, economical, and thorough as possible. We urge your SUPPORT of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

Handwritten signature of Norman Turrill in black ink.

Norman Turrill  
LWVOR President

Handwritten signature of Rebecca L. Gladstone in black ink.

Rebecca Gladstone  
LWVOR Governance Coordinator