



*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.*

February 15, 2019

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

Re: [HB 2709](#) – Independent expenditures in coordination with candidates – **Support**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon (LWVOR) and nationally (LWVUS) have supported campaign finance reform of elections with their studies and advocacy positions since the 1970s.

This bill tightens the statutory rules on coordination of independent expenditures with candidate campaigns. It would close loopholes in current Oregon law that allow subtle coordination of independent expenditures with candidate campaigns. The new rules would be in line with federal campaign finance rules.

Implementing campaign contributions limits have historically caused independent expenditures to increase, which are often used for “hit pieces,” dark money, and foreign money during candidate campaigns. Candidates can lose control of their campaign messages if independent expenditures get out of control.

This may seem like a minor bill, but it is very important in the context of other bills on campaign contribution limits, small donor elections and tightening other campaign disclosures. All these improvements in Oregon campaign finance law will work together to improve the control and transparency of Oregon elections.

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