



The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a 100-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 4, 2020

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

Re: [HB 4124](#) – Establishes Task Force on Political Campaign Contribution Limits – **Comment**

The League of Women Voters first studied campaign finance in 1973 and has advocated for our strong positions on the subject ever since. A former LWVOR President was a member of the 2016 Task Force on Campaign Finance Reform, chaired by former Secretary of State Jeanne Atkins.

The proposed HB 4124 Task Force has 2 co-chairs (likely both Democrats) and 2 co-vice chairs (likely both Republicans) to be appointed by the Senate President and the Speaker of the House from members of the legislature. The co-chairs would then appoint:

- 5 members to represent political parties
- 1 member to represent non-affiliated voters
- 1 member to represent 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporations
- 1 member to represent organizations that focus on campaign finance reform
- 1 member to represent 501(c)(4) not-for-profit corporations
- 1 member to represent for-profit organizations
- 1 member to represent nonprofit organizations that focus on voter registration
- 2 members to represent underrepresented communities

The proposed task force would be entirely appointed by and have over half its members (at least 9) who represent public officials or groups that have conflicts of interest in the product of the task force. The League would prefer to see more representation on the task force by knowledgeable voters who lack a direct fiduciary interest in campaign finances.

HB 4124 also ensures that Measure 47 (2006) does not go into effect if the Oregon Supreme Court overturns the *Vannatta I* decision, which ruled that campaign contributions are unconstitutional in Oregon. While the League believes that several features of Measure 47 are unconstitutional under the U.S. Constitution (and would be immediately enjoined by federal courts), we believe that some features are useful. Measure 47 provides the motivation for the Task Force to come to a swift compromise and for the legislature to pass reasonable campaign limits in its 2021 session.

The League cannot support HB 4124 in its current form. We urge for further amendments to address our concerns, and then for passage of an altered bill during the 2020 session.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

Rebecca Gladstone
LWVOR President

Norman Turrill
LWVOR Governance Coordinator

Cc: [Rep. Dan Rayfield](#)