



The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a 101-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 31, 2021

To: [Senate Judiciary](#)
Senator Floyd Prozanski, Chair
Senator Kim Thatcher, Vice Chair

Re: **SB 819** - Reconsideration of conviction and sentencing - **Support**

The League of Women Voters strongly favors increased use of alternatives to incarceration where possible. The League supports alternatives at all stages of the criminal justice process. This bill presents an alternative in the court and sentencing process.

The League supports the efforts to seek justice as presented in this bill. It allows reconsideration of conviction and sentencing for an incarcerated person.

Oregon's criminal justice system is far from perfect. Sadly, research has shown that black, indigenous and people of color are often given longer sentences than white offenders for the same crime. Even when everyone is trying their best, mistakes are made. New evidence comes to light, or it is discovered that forensic testimony was faulty.

SB 819 gives prosecutors who see that something has gone wrong an opportunity to go back, correct the error and petition the court to vacate or reduce the sentence, whichever is appropriate. This bill allows the prosecutor and the convicted individual to jointly petition the court for relief when faced with a wrongful conviction.

There are also protections for the victim's rights built into the legislation. It requires that the victim be notified and provided with advocacy services if needed.

The League of Women Voters of Oregon sees SB 819 as a constructive step to make our criminal justice system fairer and more compassionate.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca L. Gladstone".

Rebecca Gladstone
LWVOR President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara Ross".

Barbara Ross
LWVOR Justice Policy