



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.

April 7, 2021

To: [Public Safety Ways and Means Subcommittee](#)
Senator Chris Gorsek, Co-Chair
Representative Janeen Sollman, Co-Chair

Re: [HB 5012](#) – Oregon Judicial Department Budget – Support

The LWVOR has a position on Oregon State Courts that affirms the separation of powers and the treatment of the Oregon Judicial Department, the third branch of our state government, as a separate, independent, co-equal branch of state government.

In order to maintain a strong court system within the state, the League supports the budget requests for additional judges and staff for circuit courts. As the population increases and the cases in courts increase, additional judicial time is needed to manage the workload within each judicial district. Specialty courts require additional judicial attention and intervention but can result in significant changes in family functioning and in substance abuse recovery.

The courts are a critical piece of our public safety system as children are protected and offenders are sent to jails, treatment programs, or correctional facilities. The mentally ill are evaluated and referred to outpatient or inpatient treatment facilities or hospitals. The court decisions impact the utilization of resources and populations of the facilities. The budget and staff salaries should reflect the importance of this pivotal role in the public safety system.

The public relies on the courts for resolution of civil conflicts or family disruption. These cases require judicial attention and discretion and vie for time on the judicial schedule. The public demands a share of the judicial time and adequate staffing levels in the courthouses.

The League supports the budget requests from the Judicial Department. 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 "Karen Nibler".

Karen Nibler
LWVOR Social Policy Portfolio