



*The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a 102-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 3, 2022

To: [Senator Rob Wagner, Chair](#)  
[Senate Rules Committee](#)

Re: [SB 1527](#) -2 – statutory elections edits for “secrecy envelopes” and recounts – **Support**

LWVOR supports efficient, secure elections, anticipating the need to adapt, to improve election methods and ballot-counting timelines. The League supports this bill to update statutory references, revising elections recount timing and inner ballot envelopes, from “return identification” to “secrecy” envelope.

We would support the -2 timing adjustments based on our positions for ensuring election security of recounts and audits, recognizing reduced time needs for digital communication and observed increased mailing time for paper.

Here’s a review of [LWVOR testimony](#) for [SB 251 \(2021\)](#).

*In 2021, Oregon County Clerks requested SB 251, an adjustment the League also saw as a technical fix and supported. SB 251 would revise statute so that county clerks, with Secretary of State approval, could provide ballot secrecy, without using inner ballot sleeves. The League saw several issues to address.*

- **Election efficiency.** *Secrecy envelopes or sleeves shouldn’t be used if they don’t add privacy. They add work at multiple steps: initial printing, voter’s time, and automated processing.*
- **Government Economy** *If sleeves or inner envelopes aren’t needed, postage fees and accumulated costs can be lower. Costs add up for paper, printing, insertion, transit costs in both directions, also the ballot opening process. The League supported pre-paid ballot mailing but urges using ballot dropboxes, where possible, to curb mailing costs.*
- **Voter Confidence.** *Any election process changes must include voter education. Voters must know they can vote confidently, with their privacy protected.*

*Inner ballot envelopes have caused voter confusion and concern, enough to warrant this in the Secretary of State’s [Voting Info, Frequently Asked Questions](#).*

Oregon can continue to lead the way with secure and efficient elections, using hand-marked, voter verifiable paper ballots. We voters can be confident that our voices are heard, that our votes are being counted, efficiently, and with privacy. Now, in 2022, we urge your Support for SB 1527.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

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