



The League of Women Voters of Oregon, established in 1920, is a 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 22, 2023

To: Representative Jason Kropf, Chair, [House Committee on Judiciary](#)

Re: [HB 2007](#) – Relating to firearms in public areas – **Support**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon supports the active role of government in preventing violent behavior. We offer our strong support for HB 2007, which expands the provisions of SB 554 (2021) regarding the regulation of firearms in public buildings. Both bills give certain governing bodies the authority to place limitations on the carrying of firearms in public building and adjacent grounds by concealed handgun licensees. HB 2007 adds to the number of entities that are given that authority.

In SB 554, those governing bodies given authority to regulate firearms included boards of public universities, community colleges, and school districts, as well as the Oregon Capitol and PDX Airport. HB 2007 adds language to the statute to also include the governing body of a city, county, district, or any other entity that falls within the definition of “municipal corporation.”

Why are these statute changes needed? According to a recent [article](#) in 247wallst.com: “The FBI conducted an estimated 55,581 background checks related to firearm sales in Oregon in January 2023, up 88.7% from the same period in 2022. Adjusting for population, this comes out to about 13.1 background checks for every 1,000 people, the most among states.” More gun sales also mean more CHL applications. As of August 2022, CHL holders totaled 311,000 people, which is about 1 in 13 Oregonians. It is clear our state is awash in guns, but that doesn’t mean that guns belong in every public setting. It is the right of communities to decide where those spaces can be and the level of firearm restrictions they want to impose.

The League urges passage of HB 2007, and we thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Becky Gladstone".

Becky Gladstone
LWVOR President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marge Easley".

Marge Easley
LWVOR Action Committee