



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.

February 13, 2024

To: Chair, Sen. Kate Lieber and Committee Members
[Senate Committee on Rules](#)

Re: [SB 1533](#) – Increase Voters’ Pamphlet languages from 5 to 10 – **SUPPORT**

SB 1533 would improve voting information accessibility for Oregonians by increasing foreign language translations from 5 to 10 for Voters’ Pamphlets, in the top 10 predominating languages in each Oregon County, with a threshold increased from 100 to 300 resident speakers, to be updated every 5 years. It would increase translator membership for the Translation Advisory Council.

LWVOR supports SB 1533, extending [LWVOR comments](#) for [HB 3021 Enrolled](#) (2021), establishing translating Voters’ Pamphlets to the top five most common languages. *The LWVUS encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.*

Making voting materials accessible in voters’ native languages is of great value in improving government transparency and enabling voter participation. LWV has protected minority language voting rights since 1974, as a basic right, in 1998 opposing “English-only” legislation that would have effectively repealed the minority language provisions of the Voting Rights Act.

We cited LWVOR *Voters’ Guides* translation experience and the 2015 [Report from the Task Force on Minority Language Voting Materials](#), which documented 11 major languages in Oregon.

We supported establishing the **Translation Advisory Council**, and laud the observed Council progress, adding Ukrainian and Arabic speakers in January 2024 to Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Korean, Marshallese, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog, Thai, and Vietnamese.

Further documenting our national translation and DEI priority, in 2018, the LWV [VOTE411.org](#) website, serving over 5 million readers, *expanded fully to Spanish. The fully translated Spanish language content launched in September, 2020. With just two months before Election Day, more than 110,000 users accessed more than 350,000 pages with Spanish language election content.*

The spread of election misinformation is now one of the biggest threats to our democracy. Presenting directly understandable voting information to voters is a priority.

We urge your Support for SB 1533. Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

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

Rebecca Gladstone
Co-President, Co-Chair, Elections Advocate, LWVOR