



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.

January 28, 2025

To: Chair Representative Nathan Sosa, Representative Farrah Chaichi
Representative Virgle Osborne, Representative Jami Cate,
Representative Willy Chotzen, Representative David Gomberg,
Representative Courtney Neron, Representative E. Werner Reschke,
Representative Kim Wallan, Representative Jules Walters

Email: hccp.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

Re: **HB 2966** – Establishes the State Public Finance Task Force – **SUPPORT**

Establishes State Public Finance Task Force. Directs task force to study and make recommendations regarding public banking and other public financing options.

The League of Women Voters U.S. Privatization Position states “that when governmental entities consider the transfer of governmental services, assets, and/or functions to the private sector, the community impact and goals of such transfers must be identified and considered. Further, the League believes that transparency, accountability, and preservation of the common good must be ensured.”

In the bill we especially support in Section 1: the 14-person task force appears to represent all the major business sectors, jurisdictions, state agencies and communities most affected. Section 2 lists several important and urgent topics which the task force would explore, including affordable housing and a green bank.

Related, here is a link to a recent Congressional Research Service: [Public Banks: History and Recent Proposals](#) report.

Please support HB 2966 (very similar to League-supported [HB 2763 2023](#)). This important step, to study the benefits and harms of public financing for the state of Oregon, has the potential to improve how public funds have more oversight, are managed accountably, and are invested for the common good.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

Lisa Benton
LWVOR President

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