



*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 11, 2025

To: [Chair Rep. Ben Bowman](#), Vice Chairs [Rep. Christine Drazan](#), [Rep. Hai Pham](#), and  
[Members of the House Rules Committee](#)

Re: [HB 3130](#) – Economic interest statements filed by district school board members – **Oppose**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon (LWVOR) has supported strengthening the state’s ethics laws for decades. To the League, these laws are a simple matter of governmental integrity. Statements of Economic Interest (SEIs) give voters and others valuable information about potential conflicts of interest of public officials, candidates, and members of their families. HB 3130 would require a member of a district school board to file an economic interest statement only if the member receives a stipend from the district school board.

In the February 10 public hearing, the sponsor stressed that districts with few students and no superintendent, administered by school boards who are volunteers, should not be put to the inconvenience and invasion of privacy that he contended SEIs created.

The application of government ethics laws is not contingent on the size of the governmental body, nor the size of the agency’s administration, nor whether the government functions and funds are being administered by paid or unpaid public officials. It is a fact that the public agency is a steward of public monies and policies – our tax dollars – that create the fiduciary responsibility of elected school board members. Persons elected or appointed to such positions have the responsibility to understand, in advance, the obligations they undertake by offering to serve the public in an official governmental position.

Furthermore, the existence of an actual or an appearance of a **conflict of interest** (as may be revealed in an SEI) **is not dependent on if a public official is paid a salary or a stipend or not**. And the existence of such a conflict of interest does not prevent a person from serving as a public official.

The Committee Chair reported during the public hearing that the Oregon Government Ethics Commission (OGEC), tasked with administering these laws and training public officials, had questions about this proposal.

For these reasons, the LWVOR opposes HB 3130.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

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