

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 3, 2025

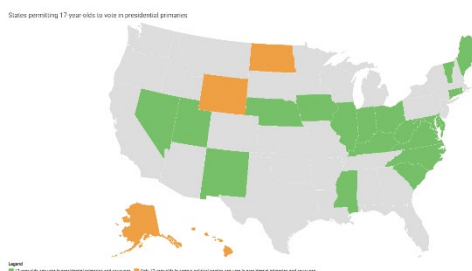
To: [Representative Ben Bowman](#), Chair, [House Rules Committee](#)

Re: [HB 3012](#) – 16-17 year-olds (registered to vote) voting in school district elections – **COMMENTS**

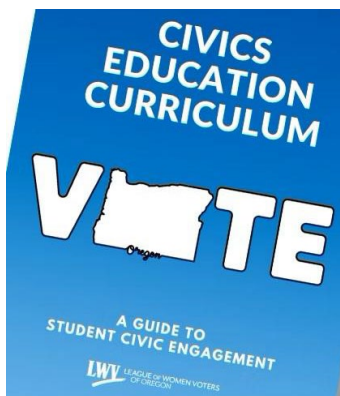
We add comments to HB 3012, which addresses 16- and 17- year-olds already registered to vote, voting in their school district elections. From LWV of the US: “We do not have a firm position for or against a specific age to begin voting.” Many leagues have advocated for 17-year-old voters participating in primaries, certainly, as well as pre-registration starting at 16.

The [map](#) shows states with 17 year-olds voting in Presidential primaries and caucuses, May 2024.

Green states allowed certain 17-year-olds to vote in presidential primaries and caucuses. The orange states applied this only to certain political parties.



Oregon Student Mock Elections (OSME)



[LWVOR Student Mock Elections and free Civics Curriculum](#) strongly support learning to vote in Oregon with:

- [Civic Lessons: Oregon’s Political Parties and Closed Primaries](#)
- [Civic Lessons: Ranked Choice Voting \(RCV\)](#)
- [General OSME Lesson Plan](#) (Updated for each election)
- [Civics Education Curriculum](#)
- [Help spread the word! Printable OSME Quarter Page Flyer](#)

Research shows [Youth Who Learn about Voting in High School More Likely to Become Informed and Engaged Voters](#).

See also [Voting at 16: Turnout and the quality of vote choice](#).

We work hard to establish responsible long-term voting habits, based on our position to *protect and encourage the civic duty of all citizens to vote*. We can help if you support HB 3012.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss HB 3012.

Barbara Klein
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