



March 3, 2025

House Committee on Rules  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

**RE: Testimony in Support House Bill 3012**

Dear Chair Bowman, Vice-Chair Drazan, Vice-Chair Pham and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon (ACLU of Oregon). The ACLU of Oregon is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to defending and advancing democracy, civil liberties, and civil rights, with more than 43,000 members and donor supporters statewide. **We strongly support House Bill 3012, which would allow eligible and registered 16- and 17-year-olds to vote in school board elections.**

Voting is the cornerstone of our democracy and the fundamental right upon which all our civil liberties rest. The ACLU of Oregon is committed to protecting and expanding Oregonians' freedom to vote.

Allowing 16-and 17-year-olds to vote in school board elections, will help ensure that schools are responsive to the needs of students and foster a culture of civic engagement from an early age. Strong civics education and a lower voting age for school board elections reinforce one another, creating a more engaged and informed electorate. When students have the opportunity to directly apply what they learn in the classroom to real-world decision making, civic education becomes more relevant and impactful. We can increase habitual voting, ensure schools are representative and accountable to the needs of students, and strengthen existing civics education.

Expanding voting rights to 16-and 17-year-olds in school board elections empowers them to engage in the decisions that shape their education. It will encourage lifelong civic participation, strengthen representative decision-making in our schools, and enhance existing civics education efforts. **The ACLU of Oregon urges your support for House Bill 3012 and asks you to pass it out of committee.**

Respectfully,  
**Samantha Gladu**  
Director of Campaigns

For more questions, please email Jessica Maravilla, Policy Director at [jmaravilla@aclu-or.org](mailto:jmaravilla@aclu-or.org)