

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 25, 2025

To: Senator Prozanski, Chair, Senate Committee On Judiciary

Re: <u>SB 1191</u> – "Know Your Rights" protection bill – Support

The League supports SB 1191, to protect those who help others know their civil or constitutional rights. SB 1191 excludes the act of informing another person of their civil or constitutional rights from statute defining "commits the crime of obstructing governmental or judicial administration". Many well-known League voter service activities and advocacy issues have newly become vulnerable to Executive Order classification as domestic terrorism. Consider our many, long-established positions:

The League of Women Voters believes that democratic government depends on informed and active participation in government. Whatever the issue, the League believes that efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, clear assignment of responsibilities, adequate financing, coordination among levels of government, effective enforcement, and well-defined channels for citizen input and review. It has been a foundational LWV principle to protect the voting rights of all citizens and encourage them to vote. We also, for example:

- Support electoral systems at each level of government that encourage participation, are verifiable and auditable, and enhance representation for all voters.
- Protect the citizen's right to know and facilitate informed understanding and public participation in government decision-making.
- Oppose major threats to basic constitutional rights.
- Promote a dynamic balance of power between the executive and legislative branches within the framework set by the Constitution.
- Support climate goals and policies that are consistent with the best available climate science and that will ensure a stable climate system for future generations.
- Promote public understanding and cooperation in decision-making as essential elements of responsible and responsive management of our natural resources.
- Support equal access to education, employment, and housing.
- Ensure fair treatment under the law for all. In transition to a reformed system, support provisions for individuals already living in the country without legal permission to earn legal status.

We will continue to support legislation for DEI, climate change, immigration, access for voter registration and election process information, protecting our natural resources, and more. We are tracking Executive Orders that would incriminate us as "domestic terrorists" and will be available to provide details.

We urge your Support for SB 1191. Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

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Barbara Klein Acting President LWVOR

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Rebecca Gladstone Privacy, Cybersecurity, Governance Portfolio