

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.

June 4, 2025

To: Chair Bowman, Vice-Chair Drazan, and Members of the House Committee on Rules

Re: <u>SB 580 A</u> – Requiring city and counties to publicly post election documents – Support

The League of Women Voters of Oregon (LWVOR) is submitting testimony in support of SB 580 A, a bill which improves election transparency with minimal fiscal impact.

The LWVOR routinely provides publication and distribution of <u>Voters' Guides</u> before each general and primary election, and a posting of candidate information on our <u>Vote411.org</u> site every year, including for special district elections. We do this in part in accordance with a 1987 League position stating we believe the government has an "*obligation to provide the voters with accurate information so that voters can make reasoned choices.*"

As a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, we rely on the city and county governments to provide this information that in turn allows us to serve voters.

SB 580 (with its adopted -2 amendment) accommodates different challenges within counties (small or large) while setting deadlines for important election documents to be posted online. It captures some of the nitty-gritty details of how filing officers from different locations can respond to requests while offering more transparency to voters. Further it provides an exception for the candidacy declarations of precinct committeepersons.

This bill would ensure transparency to all voters regarding the declarations or withdrawals of candidates in their areas and in a timely fashion.

We urge your support for SB 580 A.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

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Lisa Bentson President, LWVOR

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Barbara Klein LWVOR Elections Systems

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Norman Turrill Governance Coordinator

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Chris Cobey LWVOR Elections Systems