



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 19, 2025

To: Chair [Bowman](#), Vice-Chairs [Drazan](#) and [Pham](#) and members of the [House Rules Committee](#)

Re: [HB 3390-2](#) – Establishing a joint legislative committee for creating ballot titles and explanatory statements) – **Oppose**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon opposes HB 3390-2, which would allow the Legislature itself to write all ballot titles and explanatory statements of statutes and constitutional amendments referred to the voters or of citizen referenda of laws passed during this session of the Legislature. The League's position on *Constitutional Provisions* (adopted 1963 and revised 1980) states that we believe "that the Oregon Constitution should be a basic framework of state government." It further states we should "guarantee basic democratic rights to the people of the state by... reserving initiative and referendum powers to the people." This includes maintaining transparency of such provisions, as well as any changes to them.

While the concept of a bipartisan (or even multi-partisan) committee overseeing these titling and explanatory processes might be welcomed if it were an independent committee, HB 3390-2 simply allows the legislature itself more power. Further, since the bill creates a committee comprised of 4 majority members and 2 minority members (half from each chamber), it clearly minimizes the minority party voice.

Legislators already have numerous benefits when promoting or opposing legislation. Having the ability to manipulate the referral or referendum process to an even greater extent may be seen as undue influence. Understandably, voters may object to the lack of visibility and openness. The normal process based in the offices of the Secretary of State and Attorney General has greater impartiality than this proposal grounded in the legislative branch. The latter (under HB 3390-2) could more likely jeopardize transparency and understanding for voters.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation. At this time, we urge no further consideration of 3309-2 as written.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Bentson".

Lisa Bentson
President, LWVOR

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Norman Turrill".

Norman Turrill
Governance Coordinator

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barbara Klein".

Barbara Klein
LWVOR Elections Systems