



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.

February 18, 2026

To: [Senator Kayse Jama](#), Chair, [Senator Bruce Starr](#), Vice Chair Senate Rules Committee

And Members of the [Senate Rules Committee](#)

Re: [SB 1574 – First Time Voters Act – Support](#)

As a 16-year-old member of the League of Women Voters of Oregon Youth Council, I support SB 1574, which would permit 17-year-olds who will be 18 by the date of the consecutive general election to participate in primary elections. The League believes that elections should be conducted in a manner that encourages voter participation.

I support this bill because primary elections determine which candidates appear on the general election ballot. When young voters are excluded from primaries, they are asked to vote in their first general election without having had a say in who those candidates are.

Allowing eligible 17-year-olds to vote in primaries ensures that when they turn 18 and vote in the general election, they are choosing between candidates they helped select. This makes their first general election vote more meaningful and gives them a full voice in the democratic process.

[Research](#) from 2024 also shows that early voting experiences shape future voting habits, meaning that letting young people vote in primaries not only makes their first vote meaningful, but also increases the likelihood they will continue to vote throughout their lives. SB 1574 helps young voters feel engaged and responsible and will increase youth voter turnout.

We urge your support for SB 1574.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

Barbara Klein
Acting President LWVOR

Becky Gladstone
Governance Coordinator

Marwa Daher
Youth Council Member