



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 15-year-old member of the League of Women Voters of Oregon (LWVOR) 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 legislation because I have seen the impact youth have had in their communities, and I fundamentally believe that youth should have the ability to voice their opinion on who will represent those same communities. Many youth are involved in community service projects, taking initiative in their local community. I, myself have been a part of a local youth mental health awareness campaign and I have been volunteering for my local library service for roughly a year. And most definitely, I am not alone.

In high schools especially, it's common to find groups of students who get together and volunteer for a cause. Whether by volunteering with the local library, free meal providers, or with clubs who are connected to a wide range of local to international non-profits. Youth are ever more involved in service. There are even initiatives connected to schools themselves. For instance, groups will get together to create donation packages for the McKinney Vento Education Network, a cause that supports those undergoing housing instability and for a clothing closet which sells articles of clothing for \$1. This provides an opportunity for students to help support classmates who may be struggling.

Through volunteering, youth become active citizens, building empathy for and understanding for global issues. Overall, young people are committed and involved in their community. By passing SB 1574, those same young people who spend hours outside of school volunteering, could have their voices heard sooner.

We urge your Support for SB **1574**.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara Klein".

Barbara Klein
Acting President LWVOR

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca L. Gladstone".

Becky Gladstone
Governance Coordinator

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizaveta Rott".

Elizaveta Rott
Youth Council Member