



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF OREGON**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a 97-year-old 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.

May 8, 2017

To: [Senate Committee on Education](#)  
Senator Arnie Roblan, Chair

Re: [HB 2219 A –Comment](#)

As you might expect, the League of Women Voters supports Civics Education for students and adults, but due to budget constraints we have funding concerns about mandating resources to ensure that every student who elects to receive instruction in civics is able to do so.

With a looming deficit for funding Oregon's existing education and safety net social services this biennium, now is not the time to impose additional expenses or requirements on individual school districts, the state Department of Education, or individual students. While HB 2219 A no longer imposes barriers to graduation with a class requirement or passing a competency test for civics education, the bill may still impact individual schools and districts *facing inadequate budgets, larger classroom sizes and fewer teachers*. We continue to commend voluntary efforts of school districts to offer opportunities for civics education.

LWVOR provides free classroom materials for [voluntary Civics Education and Mock Elections across the state](#) and [supporting materials for educators](#). [Oregon Department of Education for Oregon Social Sciences Academic Content Standards](#) has core standards and grade level standards for kindergarten through high school in civics education. The [Classroom Law Project](#) has also developed materials for elementary, junior high and high school classrooms and professional development. Individual schools already incorporate Civics Education.

Yes, we wish every student knew more about civics as they enter the real world. We also wish that Oregon's revenue sources were stable and adequate to fund an education budget, and a budget for other essential services, without consistent cutbacks. We continue to follow discussions on [Cost Containment](#), [Business Tax Reform Framework](#), [Oregon Education Investment Initiative](#) and other efforts this session. LWVOR looks forward to discussions about how to improve student achievement and readiness for the real world once we have adequately funded basic services. Oregon isn't there yet.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

Handwritten signature of Norman Turrill in black ink.

Norman Turrill  
LWV of Oregon President

Handwritten signature of Chris Vogel in black ink.

Chris Vogel  
LWVOR Education Policy Coordinator

LWVOR materials include [Unit 1: We Are the Government](#), [Unit 2: Road to Universal Suffrage](#), [Unit 3: Your Vote Is Your Voice](#), [Unit 4: Registering to Vote](#), [Unit 4 Addendum: Political Parties](#), [Unit 5: Elections in Oregon](#), [Unit 6: Preparing to Vote](#)