



The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a 101-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 13, 2021

To: [House Democratic Leader Barbara Smith Warner](#), Chair
[House Committee on Rules](#)

Re: [HB 2680-1](#) – State campaign contribution limits – **Oppose**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon, using its national campaign finance Position, has for decades advocated for comprehensive campaign finance reform to protect Oregon politics from the corrupting influence of huge special interest campaign contributions.

The LWV of Oregon [submitted testimony on a previous draft of this -1 amendment](#). None of our expectations from that testimony appear to have been met. The League and others participated in work groups and gave feedback on at least four previous occasions. It appears that the drafts have changed somewhat, but they still have many of the same defects and gaping loopholes.

We are particularly disappointed that “membership organizations” are still part of this draft (now in the form of contributions through “small donor committees”) because the draft allows organizations that currently dominate Oregon campaign finance to continue to make huge campaign contributions. Furthermore, a “membership organization” is defined as “tax exempt under [section 501\(c\)](#) of the Internal Revenue Code”. This includes 501(c)(5) labor organizations and 501(c)(6) business leagues and chambers of commerce but does not include most business corporations. All 501(c) organizations are at least partially tax exempt; does that then mean that they are all “membership organizations”? It certainly means that labor unions and business corporations are treated much differently!

The League generally subscribes to the analysis Dan Meek submitted. His twelve points are much more detailed and demonstrate how complex this draft is. Simpler is better!

Although the League previously supported efforts to improve this bill, we must now sadly oppose it. The League would prefer [HB 3343](#) over HB 2680-1 and respectfully urges you to seriously give it your consideration.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

Rebecca Gladstone
LWVOR President

Norman Turrill
LWVOR Governance Coordinator

Cc: [Sen. Jeff Golden](#), [Rep. Dan Rayfield](#), [Rep. Andrea Salinas](#)