



**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.

February 8, 2018

To: [House Committee on Rules](#)
[Representative Jennifer Williamson](#), Chair


Re: [HB 4077](#) – Close (SEI) Statement of Economic Interest disclosure loophole – **Support**

Since the inception of the League of Women Voters nearly 100 years ago, when we advocated for women's right to vote, we have worked to ensure that voters can get the unbiased voting information so they need to make informed ballot decisions, to treat voting as an earnest duty and responsibility of all citizens. We strive to keep up with the times, in 1994, the LWVEF launched a "Wired for Democracy" project, anticipating the potential of the Internet for providing voter education and opening government to citizens. Today we are looking at candidate filing and requirements of "Statements of Economic Interest". The League's position for a "Citizens' Right to Know" pertains here.

ORS 244.050, revised in March 2016, is a comprehensive list of the offices to which we elect our public servants and from whom we require statements of economic interest. It stipulates that it applies to candidates running for those offices. This bill closes a loophole. With HB 4077, voters would be able to see, not just sources of direct income to the public official, candidate, or their household members, but also the sources of income that may benefit them indirectly, for example, from their businesses. These are not currently subject to reporting requirements.

This bill is consistent with our efforts to inform voters, by providing relevant candidate financial information, to allow voters to make more informed choices and better decisions. We urge your support.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.


Norman Turrill
LWVOR President


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LWVOR Governance Coordinator