



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.

November 23, 2021

To: Governor Kate Brown
President Peter Courtney
Speaker Tina Kotek

Re: Expiration of the eviction moratorium

The League of Women Voters of Oregon is extremely concerned about the looming expiration of the eviction moratorium protecting tenants who have applied for support through the emergency rental assistance program. Given the dire consequences for individuals and families who may lose their housing and for communities facing growing numbers of unhoused on their streets, the League urges you to call the Legislature into special session before the moratorium expires on December 1, 2021.

Our organization believes that those who are unable to work or whose earnings are inadequate, or for whom jobs are not available, have the right to an income and/or services to meet their basic needs for food, shelter, and access to health care.

We understand there have been a number of challenges and delays in processing applications. Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) is projecting that nearly all the \$289 million in federal resources has been requested by tenants needing assistance, so it is taking a pause in accepting applications. It is not known if additional federal US Treasury resources for rent assistance will be awarded to Oregon Housing and Community Services.

Given the devastating impact of inaction, the Legislature must meet to consider possible solutions. Extending the eviction moratorium would allow people to remain in their homes until more applications are processed and until we hear if Oregon will receive additional federal dollars. Furthermore, lawmakers may decide that the gravity of the situation merits state funding to keep as many people as possible in their homes. We are still experiencing pandemic effects and increasing houselessness. Winter is upon us, making it even more important to address this serious issue immediately. We urge for your prompt leadership.

Thank you for taking our recommendation for a special Legislative session under consideration.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Gladstone
LWVOR President

Nancy Donovan, Debbie Aiona, Jaime Carleton
LWVOR Action Committee