



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.

April 7, 2025

To: [Senator Floyd Prozanski](#), Chair, [Senate Committee on Judiciary](#)

Re: [SB 429](#) – Requires 72-hour wait before firearm transfer – **Support**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon strongly supports SB 429, based on our belief that the proliferation of handguns and semi-automatic assault weapons is a major health and safety threat to our communities. To curb this threat, it is our position that effective gun violence prevention efforts should include a waiting period for the purchase of a firearm.

SB 429 requires that a gun dealer wait 72 hours after the receipt of a background approval number before transferring a firearm, unfinished frame, or receiver to a purchaser. This requirement achieves two goals. It ensures that a background check is completed, thus overriding the “default proceed” loophole (aka Charleston Loophole) in federal law. Most importantly, research by the Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions (CGVS) shows that the waiting period requirement saves lives by preventing impulsive violence, thereby reducing firearm homicides and suicides. The “cooling off” period allows individuals time to consider their actions, and for those with suicidal ideation, time to let those thoughts subside. An analysis of state-level mandatory waiting periods from 1970 to 2014 found that waiting periods are associated with a 17% reduction in gun homicides and a 7-11% reduction in firearm suicides.

Five states currently have a 72-hour (3-day) waiting period requirement. However, it is 7 days in two states, 10 days in D.C. and our neighboring states of California and Washington, and 14 days in Hawaii. Given the high rate of suicide in Oregon compared to other states, especially among certain populations, passage of SB 429 is a critically important, common-sense step toward suicide reduction.

The League believes that the life-saving benefits of SB 429 far outweigh the minor inconvenience it presents for gun owners. There is broad public support for such a bill, given that a 2019 study reported that 85% of non-gun owners and 72% of gun owners support mandatory waiting periods for firearm purchases.

We urge your support for SB 429 and thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

Handwritten signature of Barbara Klein in black ink.

Barbara Klein
Acting President LWVOR

Handwritten signature of Marge Easley in black ink.

Marge Easley
LWVOR Action Committee Member