



*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.*

March 10, 2025

To: [Chair Rep. Ben Bowman](#), Vice Chairs [Rep. Christine Drazan](#), [Rep. Hai Pham](#), and  
Members of the [House Committee On Rules](#)

Re: [HJR 3](#) – Require initiative signatures in every Oregon county – **Oppose**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon (LWVOR) has a position supporting the constitutional right of Oregon citizens to propose or revise statutes or the Oregon Constitution through the direct initiative process.

However, this bill would effectively destroy that constitutional right in the initiative process, as we know it, by making it much, much more difficult to get an initiative on the ballot. The whole purpose of the initiative process is for citizens to have a say in issues that the legislature has failed to deal with.

It is now nearly impossible to qualify a statewide initiative for the ballot using only volunteers. Most initiatives now qualify for the ballot using mostly paid signature gatherers. This makes the cost of qualifying for the ballot at least half a million dollars. If HJR 3 is adopted, then the same percentage of valid signatures that is now required would be required in all 36 counties in Oregon! This would cost some five times as much to qualify for the ballot. Only special interests and corporations have this kind of money, destroying citizen sponsored initiatives.

Administratively, signatures would probably have to be gathered on separate petitions for each of Oregon's 36 counties. This would further increase the costs for both an initiative campaign and the government to verify the signatures.

**The League strongly opposes HJR 3.**

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara Klein". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Barbara Klein  
LWVOR Acting President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Norman Turrill". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Norman Turrill  
Governance Coordinator