



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 2, 2025

To: [Chair Kayse Jama](#), [Vice Chair Daniel Bonham](#) and members of the
[Senate Rules Committee](#)

Re: [SJR 30](#) – Increase the % of initiative signatures required, equally among CDs – **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 by making it much, much more difficult to qualify an initiative for the ballot. The whole purpose of the initiative process is for citizens to have a say in issues that the Legislature has been unable 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. If SJR 30 is adopted, then the number of valid signatures that is required would be increased 33% for statutory measures and would be increased 25% for constitutional measures! Furthermore, the required signatures would have to be equally distributed among congressional districts. This bill makes the cost of qualifying for the ballot perhaps a million dollars, if not much more. Only special interests and corporations have this kind of money, destroying citizen sponsored initiatives.

This reality is already shown by the fact that very few statewide initiatives have recently qualified for the ballot, and even fewer have been adopted by voters. SJR 30 is clearly not solving a problem for voters!

The Legislature has asked voters several times before to pass similar constitutional amendments. They have all failed on the ballot.

The League strongly opposes this SJR 30.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara Klein".

Barbara Klein
LWVOR Acting President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Norman Turrill".

Norman Turrill
Governance Coordinator