February 20, 2024

To:  
Chair Julie Fahey, Vice Chairs Hellfrich and Kropf, and Representatives Nosse, Scharf, Valderrama, and Wallan, House Committee on Rules

Re:  
HB 4026-1 – Overriding Referendum Process for Urban Growth Boundary – Oppose

The League of Women Voters of Oregon opposes the proposed -1 amendment to HB 4026 which would retroactively negate referendum petitions to any local government determinations under ORS 197.626. This position is consistent with the LWVOR 1980 position on initiative positions which states:

The League of Women Voters of Oregon supports the Oregon petition referendum process as provided in the Oregon Constitution.

This amendment would take away voters’ rights to the referendum process. Furthermore, changing the constitutional referendum process and making the amendment retroactive are likely to be unconstitutional and invite a lawsuit.

We ask that you oppose the -1 amendment to HB 4026.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

Rebecca Gladstone  
President LWVOR

Norman Turrill  
Governance Coordinator

Cc:  
Senator Suzanne Weber  
Representative Brian Stout