



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 11](#) – Increase the percentages of initiative signatures required – **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 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 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 not much more. If HJR 11 is adopted, then the number of valid signatures that is now required would be greatly increased! This would proportionately cost that much more to qualify for the ballot. Only special interests and corporations have this kind of money, destroying citizen sponsored initiatives.

The League strongly opposes HJR 11.

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