



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.

February 16, 2024

To: Ways and Means [Co-Chair Steiner](#) and [Co-Chair Sanchez](#)

Re: Allocate \$15 million for affordable homeownership development – **Support**

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the federal government shares with other levels of government the responsibility to provide equality of opportunity for education, employment, and housing for all persons regardless of their race, color, gender, religion, national origin, age, sexual orientation, or disability.

We urge you to allocate \$15 million in funding to build affordable homes for low- and moderate-income buyers. Although this funding was included in the initial version of SB 1530; it was excluded in the bill’s amendments. This omission will have a devastating impact on critically needed housing production in our state.

The legislature’s own Joint Task Force on Addressing Racial Disparities in Home Ownership (JARDHO) has called for \$100 million in each biennium in flexible funding to build new homes for homeownership and reduce Oregon’s racial homeownership gap. However, in 2023 the Legislature appropriated only \$5 million for this purpose. Oregon Housing and Community Services reports that these limited resources are already 82% allocated, just one month into the current funding cycle.

The insufficient funding in the amended bill, will result in a large majority of affordable homeownership production at risk, including projects ready to move forward in the next two years. The list below of city locations and numbers of homes, does not reflect the enormous impact on families and individuals if they are denied access to this critically needed resource by the Legislature.

- Bay City: 7 homes
- Corvallis: 41 homes
- Cottage Grove: 5 homes
- Eugene: 88 homes
- Harrisburg: 2 homes
- Independence: 10 homes
- Joseph: 23 homes
- La Grande: 7 homes
- La Pine: 46 homes
- Lincoln City: 6 homes
- Madras: 30 homes
- McMinnville: 6 homes
- Portland: 39 homes
- Prineville: 30 homes
- Riddle: 6 homes
- Redmond: 98 homes
- Scappoose: 10 homes
- Silverton: 18 homes

We strongly encourage you to appropriate \$15 million to build hundreds of new homes in cities across the state. By doing so, low- and moderate-income buyers, who otherwise will be priced out of the market, can become proud new homeowners.

We urge your support of allocating \$15 million for affordable homeownership in the 2024 session.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

*Rebecca L. Gladstone*    *Jean W. Pierce*    *Nancy G. Donovan*    *Debbie Aiona*

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Cc: [Senate President Wagner](#) and [Speaker Rayfield](#)