



*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.*

May 7, 2025

To: [Senator Kayse Jama](#), Chair, and Members of the [Senate Rules 2025 Committee](#)

Re: [SB 44-4](#) – Relating to Elections: Requires the Secretary of State to study elections –

**SUPPORT**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon’s Election Laws position (1997) “recognizes that *election procedures* and voter information are critical elements to an informed and participating electorate.” Our Elections Method position (2017) further “recognizes that *election methods* affect how voters participate in our democracy, who can run for office, and who can get elected.” The rules and procedures for conducting and counting such elections need to accommodate all elections in Oregon.

The LWVOR supports SB 44, with the -4 amendment. The dash 4 amendment would responsibly change the statutes to readily accommodate the newer electoral method of Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) already in place in some jurisdictions.

Current law is either silent or does not correctly address vote recounts, tallying or write-in votes when using the RCV method for electing either single or multiple winners. Further, the amendment also adds an official *definition* of Ranked Choice Voting to Oregon statutes for future needs.

The bill does *not* require any jurisdiction to adopt the RCV system. Yet, it sets up processes for addressing it in the areas of Oregon which might adopt RCV or which already use it, namely: Benton County, Multnomah County, and the cities of Corvallis and Portland. All of those jurisdictions, currently with RCV elections, are governed by state law. State law should be modernized to include the vote counting, recounting and tallying procedures for all elections, including those using Ranked Choice Voting.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

Lisa Bentson  
President, LWVOR

Norman Turrill  
LWVOR Governance Coordinator

Barbara Klein  
LWVOR Elections Systems