



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.

September 1, 2026

To: [Sen. Rob Wagner, Sen. James Manning, Rep Julie Fahey, Rep. David Gomberg,](#)
[Sen. Kayse Jama, Sen. Bruce Starr, Rep. Ben Bowman, Rep. Lucetta Elmer,](#)
[Brett Hanes, Shane Walker](#)

Re: **Recommendations for Improved Transparency and Access**

The League of Women Voters (LWV) is a nonpartisan, grassroots nonprofit dedicated to empowering everyone to take part fully in our democracy. The League works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. This requires transparency and accountability. For that reason, over the years we have observed the Legislature to make sure the public can participate in the Legislative process. Our past suggestions and observations have been acknowledged and, in most cases, acted upon and become part of the process. Between Covid and the Capitol building being closed, some of these processes have been dropped, and we hope that, as the building re-opens, previous rules are re-considered.

During the 2026 regular session we held the following concerns. We hope that you will consider addressing these issues so that public access to the process will be easier.

- In the Oregon Legislative Information System (OLIS), we recommend that the third choice in registering testimony be “Comment” rather than “Neutral”. Comments may include both support and opposition, so “Comment” can provide a more realistic testimony designation.
- Committee chairs should give equal time to people presenting oral public testimony. Some committees have allowed initial speakers to testify for up to 9 minutes, while those remaining were limited to 2 minutes.
- Amendments should be posted in a timely fashion. Too often they are not. It is important that the public be aware of and prepared for the topic of a committee’s meeting.
- The League appreciates opportunities to view Committee meetings online. We understand that there are transmission delays. However, when a committee recesses, often on restarting, the video does not automatically resume streaming, and the public is unaware when this happens. Those watching online must restart their video streaming to continue viewing the meeting.

- The League continues to be frustrated with complex bills being considered during short sessions. Unless there is an emergency, they should be saved for long sessions and not be considered in short sessions where public input time is limited.
- The use of “place holder” or “study bills” has become too pervasive. Because of that practice, the actual bill titles and bill texts may not represent the final bill intent. That reduces understanding of proposed legislation.
- Microphones do not always work. Committee administrators need to monitor this better and take time at the beginning of hearings (and as the need arises) to remind speakers to lean forward and speak directly into the microphone, and to ensure their laptops are not blocking microphones.



Mark Kendall
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