

Oregon Election Laws

Adopted 1987; Revised 1997

The League of Women Voters of Oregon recognizes that election procedures and voter information are critical elements to an informed and participating electorate.

A. Registration Process. *The League of Women Voters of Oregon believes a variety of practices is necessary to provide the public with adequate information regarding where and how to register, under what circumstances and how to re-register, notice of election dates, and content of the ballot. The League supports:*

- 1. A registration process which is accessible, well publicized and easily understood, as well as easy to implement and administer;*
- 2. Mail-in registration forms which are widely available;*
- 3. Oregon implementation of the National Voter Registration Act which includes registration process training for agency personnel and the designation of additional registration sites;*
- 4. Implementing a statewide centralized registration list;*
- 5. A registration cut-off requirement that does not disenfranchise otherwise qualified voters.*

B. Elections Process. *The League of Women Voters of Oregon believes elections should be conducted in a manner which encourages voter participation and supports:*

- 1. No more than four annual, regularly scheduled, election dates;*
- 2. A formula for cost-sharing between the state and the counties for the state portion of the primary and general elections;*
- 3. Evaluating the timing of the Oregon Primary; and*
- 4. Expediting the process for filling vacancies in federal offices.*

C. Voting Process. *The League of Women Voters of Oregon believes citizens are entitled to voting procedures which provide ease of ballot access and use and supports:*

- 1. Use of vote-by-mail in all elections. Every effort should be made to preserve ballot secrecy to prevent fraud.*
- 2. Use of the permanent absentee ballot, provided methods and timelines for counting such ballots are improved, unless and until vote-by-mail in all elections is implemented; and*
- 3. Shortening the time between sending out mail ballots and their required return date.*

D. Voter Education Process. *The League of Women Voters of Oregon supports publication and distribution of a state Voters' Pamphlet prior to statewide elections and believes that:*

- 1. The state has an obligation to provide voters with accurate information so that voters can make reasoned choices;*
- 2. All ballot measures must be included with official explanatory statements, an official advisory opinion on constitutionality, effects of a "yes" and "no" vote, a fiscal impact statement, and summaries of the main arguments for and against the measures;*
- 3. The number of arguments for and against the measures to be included should be limited;*
- 4. The fees charged per page should more clearly reflect the actual costs; and*
- 5. Ballot titles and measures need to be stated in clear, concise language and should avoid confusing negatives.*

E. The League of Women Voters of Oregon supports a mandatory certification procedure for all county chief elections officials.