



The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a 99-year-old 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 12, 2019

To: [House Committee On Judiciary](#)
Representative Jennifer Williamson, Chair
Representative Chris Gorsek, Vice-chair

Re: [HB 2430](#) – Eliminates sunset date of Public Records Advisory Council – **Support**

The League of Women Voters supports open access to government agency information as provided by our public records laws. The Public Records Advisory Council and the Public Records Advocate, Ginger McCall have been doing excellent work in reviewing and advising our public records law, exemptions and complaints.

Recently, the public Records Advocate supplied a comprehensive report to the Sunshine Committee, a survey of the treatment of personal information by federal and state public records laws, and by private businesses. The report was comprehensive and informative in helping the committee understand the laws and background surrounding exemptions from disclosure concerning personally identifiable information. In addition, the Public Records Advocate has provided free trainings for the public and for state agencies and has a PowerPoint that is readily available to the public about how to make effective and specific FOIA and public records requests. A League member attended one of these trainings in Portland and found them clear and very helpful. We understand Ginger McCall is in the process of updating a much-needed Open Oregon guidelines booklet, that will make our existing laws for the average citizen and state agency employees easier to understand, which will help with compliance issues.

The work of the Committee and the Public Records Advocate is far from complete, and will continue to be important as exemptions continue to be added to public records requests. The League of Women Voters supports the ongoing work of the committee and therefore favors eliminating the sunsets for this committee and the advocate position.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

Handwritten signature of Norman Turrill in black ink.

Norman Turrill
LWVOR President

Handwritten signature of Josie Koehne in black ink.

Josie Koehne
LWVOR Transparency, Public Records Portfolio