



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.

April 1, 2019

To: Senate Committee on Business and General Government
Senator Chuck Riley, Chair
Senator Fred Girod, Vice Chair
Senators Michael Dembrow, Mark Hass and Alan Olsen

Re: **SB 346 – Zero-Based Budgeting – Oppose**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon believes economy should be achieved by efficiency and responsible administration. If cuts are necessary, preference should be given to cuts based on an established priority of services so that least essential services are reduced or eliminated first.

League members actively participate, along with a variety of stakeholders, in agency budgeting—usually as soon as the long session ends, looking at the next budget cycle. Agencies engage the general public as they consider their next biennial budget requests, often holding meetings around the state.

The legislature has set up a system for agency review, including usually requiring a 10% cuts list to Current Service Level budgets. There are also systems that provide for the agencies to offer specific cuts and additions that will help them administer their missions as set forth by the legislature.

League members engage with the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittees as they review individual agency budgets, consider agency success in meeting Key Performance Measures as set by the legislature, and as the legislature's competent Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO) reviews on-going work. The executive branch's Chief Financial Officers also review these budget requests before forwarding them to the legislature for consideration.

The concept of zero-based budgeting might seem appealing to some, but the processes set forth today offer a comprehensive review of agency programs under the policy guidance given by the legislature. We believe this bill and the proposed activity is unnecessary, costly, and will not lead to a different outcome than that set forth today. We urge you oppose SB 346.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

Norman Turrill
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Cc: Senator Dennis Linthicum