



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.

February 26, 2025

To: [Rep. Pam Marsh](#), Chair, and [Rep. Tom Andersen](#) and [Rep. Vikki Breese Iverson](#), Vice Chairs
[House Committee On Housing and Homelessness](#)

Re: **HB 3031 with -1 amendment – Infrastructure for Housing – Support**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon is pleased to support HB 3031 with the -1 amendment to help local governments with funding for infrastructure for housing, using a set of criteria that focuses on supporting housing units for 80% and lower AMI. We especially support using monies first inside cities where units are best constructed. We do accept that there are times that servicing areas outside cities but inside their urban growth boundaries can sometimes provide a greater number of units, BUT we would hope that these units would be annexed into the nearby city so they have the full range of public services. People need jobs, places to shop, schools and other community amenities as well as housing.

The League of Women Voters of Oregon supports our statewide land use planning program with local implementation. Since 1959 we have been studying and participating in the development of legislation related to land use in Oregon. **Land use planning is about where people live, work, shop, play and how they get there.**

In November of 2022, we testified before the Land Conservation and Development Commission:
“...**focus on the use of buildable lots in current cities. Provide funding for infrastructure needs for those lots** and provide state funding to offset System Development Charges for development that will house Oregonians with 60% and under AMI with a priority placed on units affordable to extremely low-income households. For those lots, that may mean helping with sidewalks or other transportation requirements or, in some areas, getting them on to city sewer and/or water systems.

Next, help local governments look at their current Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) lands and help them update their Public Facilities Plans so that infrastructure can be provided, again using state and federal funds where appropriate—not only to help with the planning but also funding all or part of those infrastructure needs. (We note that the federal government recently provided monies to our Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund at the Dept. of Environmental Quality—with up to 49% potentially “forgivable” funds.) In our smaller communities, help is needed with grant writing so that they can access funds and update, improve and/or expand their facilities to meet current environmental requirements as well as any increased capacity needs”.

We support the proposed criteria for project selection, especially for lower income units at densities that assure the most units per dollars spent on infrastructure. The concept of a forgivable loan or grant requiring a protective covenant is reasonable since these are public dollars. We look forward to the Housing Production and Accountability Office assisting with this process AND assisting smaller cities in going through the application process.

We understand that there may be additional amendments before this bill is passed, but we are hopeful that the bill will pass with significant funds to make a real difference and that the monies can be distributed in a reasonable time with limited rulemaking. Oregonians need housing now! The League looks forward to working with you on this legislation and others to reach that goal.

We urge your Support for HB 3031 with the -1 amendment.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.



Barbara Klein
Acting President
LWVOR



Peggy Lynch
Natural Resources
Coordinator



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Housing



Nancy Donovan
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