



The League of Women Voters

OF PORTLAND OREGON

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Regulation of Lobbying Entities Ordinance City Council Testimony June 20, 2007

The League of Women of Voters of Portland wholeheartedly supports transparency and openness in government and believes Portland's lobbying ordinance is key to accomplishing that goal. We supported the program from its inception and participate in it as a registered lobbying entity. It is, however, a work in progress and needs continual monitoring and adjusting.

The intent of the program is to capture the behind the scenes interactions between decision makers and the entities seeking to influence them. A review of the quarterly reports shows that under the current rules, some of the city's most influential lobbyists are not required to report their activity. For this reason, the League supports both the registration of all lobbying entities and removing, or at least lowering, the threshold that triggers reporting. At this point, we do not know what will be sufficient to capture the full extent of lobbying activity. Therefore, we suggest operating under a new threshold and registration requirement for at least two quarters and then evaluating the results. We urge council's eventual approval of these two changes. Thank you for your consideration.