



# The League of Women Voters

OF PORTLAND OREGON

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## **Regulation of Lobbying Entities City Council testimony September 14, 2005**

I am Norman Turrill, speaking on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Portland.

The League is pleased to offer its support for the Lobby Reform proposal before you today. The League works at all levels of government to increase citizen access to information and protect the citizen's right to know. We support lobbying disclosure reform to provide information on the pressures exerted on the policy-making process. Government that is open, transparent, and accessible is more likely to engender public trust. Furthermore, the registration and reporting program will increase networking opportunities among community activists and potentially could lead to increased citizen participation.

Many elements of this proposal are still subject to debate and discussion. We believe, however, that it has improved significantly since it came before you in March and deserves adoption at this time. We are especially pleased that there is a requirement for a six-month review. This is a complex system that will benefit from a test run. We are not sure that one review in six months will be enough, however, and encourage council to provide for another check-in 18 months from now.

Finally, we'd like to commend Commissioner Adams for the unusual approach he took to refining his original proposal. The regular conversations he held with the interested parties at the table allowed everyone the opportunity to understand the various viewpoints and incorporate changes accordingly.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our opinion.