



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.

March 20, 2025

To: [Rep. Jason Kropf](#), Chair, [House Committee on Judiciary](#)

Re: [HB 3076](#) – Relating to gun dealer licenses – **Support**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon strongly supports HB 3076, based on our belief that the proliferation of handguns and semiautomatic assault weapons constitutes a major health and safety threat to communities in our state. Making headway on this crisis requires a multi-faceted approach. We have several effective firearm laws in place, but there's much more we can do, including the regulation of gun dealers in Oregon. HB 3076 authorizes the Oregon Department of Justice to study a state gun dealer licensing program, a good first step in curtailing the high number of illegal guns that continue to show up at crime scenes across the state.

Why is a state-based gun dealer licensing program being proposed at this time? Oregon has historically relied on the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) to carry out dealer inspections. However, the ATF is not required to routinely carry out inspections, and staffing shortages have made inspections a rarity. According to a recent OPB story, only 31 inspections were carried out in 2022 and 34 in 2023, which is less than 2% of the roughly 2000 firearms dealers in the state. On average a dealer may undergo an inspection once every ten years. And the situation will most likely get worse, since the January introduction in Congress of the "Abolish the ATF Act". Fifteen states now have their own licensing programs, which account for a 36% reduction in firearm homicides. It is time for Oregon to have its own gun dealer licensing program, too.

Why do gun dealers need to be regulated? A data report recently released by the Alliance for a Safe Oregon found that between 2017 and 2021, law enforcement traced 74% of crime guns in Oregon to in-state dealers. Most gun dealers are conscientious about background checks, record-keeping and security measures. But more than a handful allow guns to enter the illegal market through straw purchases or gun shop thefts, and many of those guns end up at crime scenes.

If we are serious about gun violence and public safety in Oregon, we must close the gun dealer loophole and establish a state gun dealer licensing program. We urge your support for HB 3076 and thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

Barbara Klein
Acting President, LWVOR

Marge Easley
LWVOR Action Committee Member