

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact

**FISCAL:** May have fiscal impact, statement not yet issued

---

**Action:** Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means  
**Vote:** 4 - 2 - 1  
**Yeas:** Buckley, Roblan, Thatcher, Rosenbaum  
**Nays:** Berger, Esquivel  
**Exc.:** Hunt  
**Prepared By:** Jim Stenbridge, Administrator  
**Meeting Dates:** 3/28, 4/18

---

**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Directs that partisan-office candidates be listed more than once on general election ballots, once for each nomination received by the candidate. Allows candidates to decline to be listed as nominee of a specific political party. Directs that multiple-votes for the same candidate on a single ballot be counted as a single vote for that candidate.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Efforts to open elections to widest participation possible
- Known as open ballot voting or “fusion” voting
- History of use in Oregon; suppression of “fusion” voting; current use in other states
- Provision of choice for voters, who can vote for both candidate and party
- Disfranchisement effect for minor parties under current elections procedure
- Minor parties as election spoilers when they run third-party candidates
- Candidate authority to decline minor party nomination
- Additional costs and delays in vote-tallying caused by multiple voting and over-vote counting
- Ballot-tallying machinery and manufacturers

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Changes double-party vote to count as vote for major party.

**BACKGROUND:** Allowing more than one party to nominate the same candidate is called “fusion” voting. Under fusion voting, voters may vote their party-preference as well as voting for candidates. Votes from different parties are then combined for that candidate's total number of votes. According to a recent broadcast on Oregon Public Broadcasting, fusion voting was legal in Oregon a hundred years ago. Under Oregon's current election laws, candidates are nominated by their own party in primary elections. The primary election winners then face off in a general election. Proponents of fusion voting say that in the current system it is virtually impossible for minor party candidates to win elections. They say fusion voting, by allowing minor parties to nominate the same candidate as a major party, would force candidates to focus on the issues rather than personalities.

The transcript of a recent Oregon forum on fusion voting is available on-line at <http://www.opb.org/programs/oregonterritory/episodes/2007/0119/Fusion-Voting.pdf>.