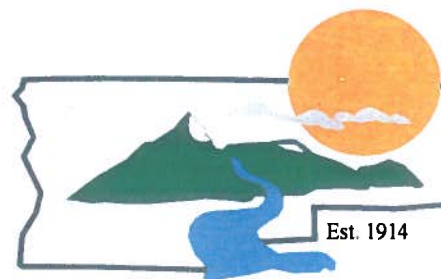


JEFFERSON COUNTY

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

66 S.E. "D" St., Suite A • Madras, Oregon 97741
 • Ph: (541) 475-2449 • FAX: (541) 475-4454



The Honorable Kate Brown
 Oregon Secretary of State
 136 State Capitol Building
 900 Court Street NE
 Salem, OR 97310-0722

RE: HB 3521 (FKA HB 2198-1)

Dear Secretary Brown,

The Jefferson County Commissioners would like to express their concerns regarding HB 3521 (FKA HB 2198-1). The Jefferson County Board of Commissioners has the following concerns regarding the bill:

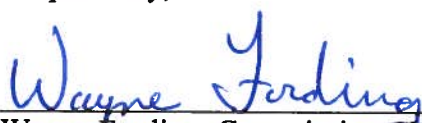
1. Invasion of a citizen's right to privacy – many voters have opted out of being registered to vote to maintain their privacy – be it for religious, political or personal reasons. Should this bill pass, these folks will be required to take action on their part to **not** be registered to vote. If they fail to take action, they will be registered to vote and their information will become public.
2. Cost – Jefferson County currently has 10,200 registered voters. Should this bill be enacted, Jefferson County could possibly add 4,959 voters to their voter registration roll, bringing the total registered voters for Jefferson County to 15,159. The average cost, per registered voter, to conduct an election in Jefferson County is \$1.67. Based on this number, the cost to conduct an election in Jefferson County would *increase* by \$8,281.53 (this is the increased cost **per election**). This figure **does not** include the implementation costs, which could amount to as much as \$2,500.
3. Special District Cost Impact – Special Districts in Jefferson County are required to reimburse Jefferson County for elections conducted on their behalf. Most, if not all of these districts, currently struggle financially. If this bill passes their election costs will increase substantially.
4. Timeline – an emergency clause has been added to this bill, meaning it is effective on its passage and must be implemented no later than January 1, 2014. Processing approximately 4,500 voters will take some time. Should the increased voter registrations be received prior to the registration deadline for the November, 2013 election, the County Clerk's office would be forced to add staff to process these registrations. The cost for doing this would be significant.
5. Legality of using DMV signature – to the best of our knowledge, there is currently no statutory authority allowing the Secretary of State to use signatures

gathered by another public agency for voter registration purposes. If a citizen were to challenge the use of their signature for voter registration purposes (voter registration records are public records – DMV records are not) each county could be faced with a lawsuit.

The Jefferson County Clerk, Kathy Marston, indicated the Oregon Association of County Clerks suggested an amendment to HB 2198-1. They suggested rolling the DMV records into an “inactive status” on the voter registration rolls. It appears this suggested amendment was not applied to the rewritten bill.

The Jefferson County Board of Commissioners respectfully asks you to reconsider support of this bill as it is written. We respect your passion for getting people registered to vote, but, in our opinion, this bill is not the answer. We’re sure you’ve heard the old saying “You can lead a horse to water but you can’t make them drink”. This old saying would certainly apply here – you can force folks to register to vote, but you cannot make them vote.

Respectfully,



Wayne Fording, Commission Chair



Mike Ahern, Commissioner



John Hatfield, Commissioner

CC: Senate President Peter Courtney
House Speaker Tina Kotek
Senator Ted Ferroli
Representative John Huffman
Association of Oregon Counties