



# Marion County

## OREGON

### Board of Commissioners

(503) 588-5237 - FAX

May 7, 2013

#### BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Samuel Brentano  
Janet Carlson  
Patricia Milne

#### CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

John Lattimer

Representative Chris Garrett, Chair  
House Committee on Rules  
900 Court Street NE, Room 453  
Salem, OR 97301

#### Re: Marion County Opposes HB 3521

Dear Chair Garrett:

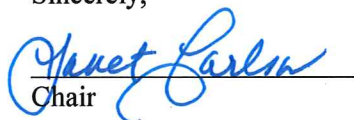
Marion County is opposed to HB 3521, which automatically registers all eligible unregistered voters in Oregon. First, we would like to clarify that Marion County is very supportive of having as many people participate as possible in the elections process. However, this bill is not the appropriate mechanism to expand voter registration rolls due to the increased cost to the county associated with it.

Marion County currently has 153,050 active registered voters. Should this bill pass, the number of new registered voters could increase by an additional 45,000-52,000. The initial estimated cost to Marion County for full implementation of this bill would be an additional \$200,000 per year including temporary labor, printing and mailing costs. Another concern is citizens who have chosen not to vote who, under this legislation will have to go to the Clerk's Office now to unregister to vote.

We do support the compromise suggestion of Malheur County Clerk DeLong, in which the records from a qualified designated voter registration agency be transferred into each counties INACTIVE registration file. The Secretary of State would send out postcards informing each of these voters that they are in the inactive registration database and could update their registration anytime up until 8:00 p.m. on election night and receive a ballot. We believe this compromise would accomplish the intent of the Secretary of State, keep the clerks records clean and updated, and counties would avoid spending money on ballots for people who don't want to be registered and vote.

Please feel free to contact us if you need additional information or have any questions. We can be reached at (503) 588-5212 or by e-mail at [commissioners@co.marion.or.us](mailto:commissioners@co.marion.or.us).

Sincerely,

  
Chair

  
Commissioner

  
Commissioner

cc: Marion County Legislative Delegation