



County of Malheur

251 'B' STREET WEST • VALE, OREGON 97918

April 23, 2013

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

RE: HB 2198-1 Automatic Voter Registration

Dear Secretary of State Brown,

Malheur County Clerk, Deborah DeLong, met with the Budget Board on April 23, 2013. She expressed to us that there is a high probability that HB 2198-1 will pass this session and will go into effect January 1, 2014. She explained that this bill is sponsored by you to promote more voter activity and will automatically register voters by filtering and down loading DMV records into the county registration records. We understand that it is written into the bill that persons in DMV records that meet the citizenship and residency requirements and are at least 18 years old will qualify. She also explained that your office will mail to each of these individuals a post card explaining that they can pick a political party or opt out of being a registered voter by corresponding with the County Clerk. While we would be happy to see more people participate in the election process and vote, we do not agree with this process and the increase cost to the county associated with it.

Currently Malheur County has 12,555 registered voters and the information given to the County Clerks states that Malheur County could have anywhere from 6,017 to 8,424 additional registrants. **If this bill passes Malheur County estimates that we would have to increase our election budget an estimated \$12,000 to \$14,000 for the May 2014 primary alone, and this does not include the extra staff time, supplies and postage.** Another concern we have is for our special districts and the increased cost that they would have to reimburse the county along with the 50% majority for money measures required for them at a special election.

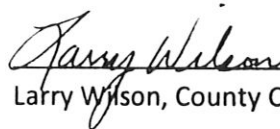
Clerk DeLong told us she would like to propose an amendment to this bill that she considers a **compromise** in which the DMV records could be filtered by the OCVR system and dumped into each counties INACTIVE registration file. Your office would then send out postcards informing each of these voters that they are in the inactive registration data base and could update their registration anytime up until 8:00PM election night and receive a ballot. When the voter updates their registration they would be providing their current address, political party, and signature. This would still accomplish something that she believes is your intent and that is for people to get a ballot up to 8:00PM election night instead of being turned away if they wait to register until after the 20th day before an election. Also, it would keep the clerks records clean and updated , and in turn, the county would avoid spending money on ballots for people that don't want to be registered and vote. We told her we would support this compromise.

We respect your passion regarding this issue and hope that we can work together for the good of the citizens of Oregon.

Sincerely,



Daniel P. Joyce, County Judge



Larry Wilson, County Commissioner



Don Hodge, County Commissioner

Copy/AOC

Sen. Ted Ferrioli

Rep. Cliff Bentz

Deborah DeLong