

**House Committee Hearing on General Go  
OR Legislative Session 2013  
HB 3521 A – June 3, 2013**

2013 Session  
Joint Committee on  
Ways and Means  
General Government  
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Bill #: HB3521  
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Exhibit #: 8

**Sen. Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, Co-Chair, Rep. Greg Smith, Co-Chair.**

**Members: Sen. Betsy Johnson, Sen. Doug Whitsett, Rep. David Gomberg, Rep. Nancy Nathanson**

Testimony by: Janice Williamson  
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Mandatory voter registration goes against the grain of our whole way of life under the Constitution. It destroys yet another freedom, that of choosing whether or not we want to vote or keep our personal information hidden from public view. These days it's difficult enough to keep our identities from being stolen. It changes the very integrity of the voting process. I urge a "NO" vote on HB 3521 A.

There are a number of reasons why this Bill is a bad idea:

- There are **no safeguards** in this bill to prevent in-eligible or illegal persons from obtaining a driver's license, becoming registered and voting illegally.
- Reports and surveys about why people don't vote show that it is not the opportunity to register that keeps them from voting, it's because they are **unhappy with the system** and have a learned **distrust of politicians** and the way they vote. Folks also site not liking the candidates or being at odds with issues on the ballot. In the 2008 Census Bureau's survey, 46% said they were not interested or "in" to politics. Citizens unhappy with the system, candidates or issues is also why both major political parties are losing registration numbers, as demonstrated by taking many irate phone calls in my previous positions with the ORP and as County Chair.
- The claim that registration problems prevent minorities from **voting is not borne out by the percentages** found in the 2010 Census Bureau's survey. It's very low and evenly distributed at about three percent. This is also true for low-income folks. In fact voters with less income had fewer registration problems than voters of greater means.
- Spreading the requirement to register around to **other agencies such as the Post Office** with change-of-address forms and the IRS when folks file their taxes is only going to **compound the problem** and overload data bases ill-equipped to handle the load or differentiate between citizens and non-citizens. You still have not guaranteed that people will vote. You can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink.
- The last few years the County Clerks have been complaining about the relatively small cost of handling the Precinct Committee Persons registrations and votes. The process in this Bill is estimated to **cost thousands of dollars** to register the numbers of voters expected by this sweep and thousands more every election in just my county alone.
- As we all know from use of much smaller data bases the lack of accuracy is a huge headache and now you want to compound this many times over by cross-checking data between other inaccurate data bases. The **lack of identity credentials** required at the DMV alone puts the voter registration at a severe disadvantage. **It's not going to be accurate!**

I urge a strong No vote on HB 3521 A as an ill-advised, in-accurate, unworkable and expensive proposition.